

In Hope We Believe

Introduction

- Hope is essential for humanity to pursue the future.
- Many people have hope even without grounds or a basis for it.
- Natural hope is wishful, without certainty (Ps.33:17; Ac. 24:26).
- Biblical hope has certainty because it is based on the faithfulness of God and His promises (Heb. 10:23).
- As we celebrate 2 years of God sustaining us in hope, reflection on our past journey is profitable – where we have come from!

I. Living with No Hope

A. No hope in this life (Eph. 2:11-12)

All unbelievers are outside the church (not a part of God's family) even if they are officially church members. These two verses describe the condition of all unbelievers – “separated”, “alienated”, “strangers”, “no hope” & “without God”. Unbelievers have no hope of God's glorious salvation in Christ (Col. 1:27).

B. No hope for eternal life (1Th. 4:13)

Unbelievers have no certainty of existence & blessing after this present life. Their views of the afterlife are either non-existent or inventions of the human mind – universalism, reincarnation, soul destruction, etc. Their lifestyles are self-centered looking for complete fulfillment in this present life only (1Co. 15:32; Lk. 12:16-20).

Think about the life of no hope outside the family of God & church: instability, insecurity, desperation, deception, futility, fears, etc.

II. Living with Hope

A. Hope in this life (Rom. 4:18-21)

*Hope (ἐλπίς) is looking forward to something with confidence. Biblical hope is anchored in God & His word by faith (Heb. 6:17-20). **People without God are without hope & people with God have hope.** Believers have hope when nothing naturally (from human nature) supports that hope (Rom. 4:18-21). **Abraham & Sarah had no natural ability to fulfill God's promise. Believers in Christ & the church have always been naturally weak & have no natural***

abilities to fulfill God's promises – the 11 disciples, the 120 believers, meetings in homes, etc. The church has hope & will prevail in spite of weaknesses & failures (Mt. 16:18).

B. Hope for eternal life (Rom. 5:1-2)

*Believers have been justified, have peace with God, continual access to God & hope in a glorious future. Because of this hope, believers can endure suffering & difficulty in life & ministry without giving up (v. 3-5). Heaven is our hope & home (Heb. 11:13-16). **Our resurrection is guaranteed; treasures & rewards are waiting in heaven; prayers, praise, peace, joy, healing, holiness, happiness, love, liberty & every perfect blessing is waiting for us in heaven. And Jesus is coming again to take us home (Jn. 14:1-3; 1Jn. 3:1-2).***

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters, we are not among those who live, work, study, build, minister & even grieve as if we have no hope. We do have hope; certainty that God will keep every promise that He has made. He cannot lie; it is impossible. He cannot fail; it is impossible. There is no one wiser, with more powerful or authority; it is impossible. Jesus Christ is the basis of our hope – He is the Solid Rock, Firm Foundation. He is the same yesterday & today & forever. He is the same Lord that delivered Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Israel, Rahab, Ester, Isaiah, Amos, Malachi, Matthew, Stephen & Paul. He is the same God that started creation on the first day, killed the first born in Egypt, parted the Red Sea, fed thousands with two fish & five cakes of bread, healed blinded eyes & raised Lazarus from the dead & promises to raise us. He has also promised that He will supply all our needs to finish the work He has called TCC to do (1Co 15:58). Work on in hope!!!!

And if you are not a Christian, there is hope for you today too. There is hope in Christ for He has promises to save anyone that will believe in Him.... Will you trust Him & believe today...?

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