

# HOPE

## Int.

1. Aim: To show how hope is such an important part of our life that it is actually like an Anchor.
2. Text - Tit. 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
  - a. Christianity is a religion of hope
  - b. The Christian hope is:
    - i. The joyful expectation of eternal life - A home in heaven
    - ii. An endless association with the redeemed of all ages.
3. There is a mythical law called "Murphy's Law" which states- "If anything can go wrong it will."
  - a. That is the outlook to: "always expect the worst and you won't be disappointed."
  - b. Those who subscribe to this belief will be miserable and sad
  - c. Much of the sadness in the world and church can be attributed to this attitude
  - d. The attitude of always expecting the worst is contrary to every principle taught in the N.T. Hope is the opposite: Always expect the best
4. In the Nineteen volumes of Encyclopedia Britannica the subject of "Hope" is not found.
5. The Word of God is filled with Hope ! The word Hope is found 121 times in the Bible.

## Discussion

### I. DEFINITION OF HOPE

- A. The word comes from a root which signifies:
  1. "Opening of the Eyes"
  2. A close relationship to the word "gape" which describes the opening of the mouth

- B. Two pictures or illustrations to explain the meaning
1. Imagine a little child standing on tiptoe, with wide-open eyes, in eager expectation of some wonderful sight, and with all of its being thrilled with interest and excitement.
  2. The other picture is that of a nest of newly hatched birds, with upturned and opened beaks waiting for the morsels of food, which the mother-bird will bring.
- C. Hope is this attitude of looking and waiting in anticipation of that which the gospel promises the obedient and faithful.
1. It is an expectant fore look
  2. It is a confident waiting
  3. Hope has more interest in tomorrow than in yesterday.
- D. The 3 main ingredients of hope are: [Expectancy, Desire, Anticipation]
1. Expectancy - the out looking of the soul
  2. Desire - one may expect something and dread it, but when expectation is joined with desire then he wants it - that is hope
  3. Anticipation - Living in the future before it comes; seeing things as they will be, and not merely as they are.

## **II. LOVE HOPETH ALL THINGS - I Cor. 13:7**

- A. The kind of hope we need
1. We all need to learn to expect the best of life, our fellow man and our brethren in Christ.
  2. Love will cause us to trust, even when things look bad.
- B. Some who are lacking in love always anticipate evil and face the future with fear and dread.

C. Love anticipates that truly "all things work together for good to them that love God."

Rm. 8:28

1. This "charitable" attitude of expectation will include "all things"
2. One who loves will give the benefit of doubt or good possibility always as he evaluates thoughts, words, actions and plans.
3. The Christian will apply the principle of positive anticipation to all associations - both public and private.
4. Love bestows this hope because love delights in expecting good conduct in others.

### **III. THERE IS ONE HOPE**

A. Eph. 4:4-6 "one hope"

1. Hope points neither to the past nor to the present
2. Hope consistently points forward. To the future!
3. The Christian's hope is heavenly

B. Some religious bodies have a plurality of hopes that are inferior to the one hope

1. Some contend for a rapture hope with a duration of 7 years
2. Multitudes contend for a premillennial hope for a thousand years in duration
3. Some are expecting an earthly hope of a remodeled earth as their eternal home.
4. There is no scripture to support any of these concepts.
5. The Christian's hope involves NONE of these.

C. OUR hope is HEAVENLY in nature

1. This one hope derives from God and includes the one resurrection
2. This one hope is eternal life in heaven
3. Tit. 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
4. This one hope serves as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul - Heb. 6:19-20  
 "Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, [even] Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."
5. I Pet. 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,..."
6. This is the Christian's one true hope. It is a holy and heavenly hope. This earth and all things on the earth will be destroyed by fire. II Pet. 3:10-13

#### **IV. THOUGHTS ABOUT HOPE**

- A. God is called the "God of Hope" - We are taught to hope in him - I Pet. 1:21.
- B. We may hope for eternal life - Tit. 3:7
- C. Hope is a Christian grace - I Cor. 13:13 and is the gift of God - Tit. 1:2
- D. Hope is illustrated as:
  1. An anchor - Heb. 6:19
  2. An helmet - I Thes. 5:8 - "the hope of salvation" "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

E. Men who exhibited great Hope:

1. David - Ps. 39:7 "...my hope is in thee."
2. Paul - Acts 24:15 "And have hope toward God..."
3. Abraham - Rm. 4:18 "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be."

F. Hope gives patience - Rm. 8:25 "But if we hope for that we see not, [then] do we with patience wait for [it]."

G. Hope prompts us to purify our lives - I Jn. 3:3 "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

H. We are saved by hope - Rm. 8:24 "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"

## **V. HOPE FOR AN ETERNAL HOME**

A. Jn. 14:1-4

B. II Cor. 5:1-4

1. The last verses of chapter 4 introduces the subject of an eternal home
2. This earthly tabernacle is going to dissolve
3. But he has a permanent dwelling in contrast to the temporary.
4. This is a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

C. This is the HOPE we have as a Christian

1. There is no more sustaining and transforming influence on human life, than the influence of hope
2. If a man has hope that his weary struggle will end in something better then he can endure.

3. If he has hope that the battle will result in victory he can keep on fighting
4. Hope is an asset that can bring us through an ordeal.

### Conclusion

1. Hope is one of the strongest incentives to faithfulness - "The toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way."
2. Hope produces preparation for death.
  - a. "...the righteous hath hope in his death." Pro. 14:32b
  - b. The infidel Robert Owen visited Alexander Campbell at his farm. As they were walking about the farm they came to the family burying ground. Owen said to Campbell, "There is one advantage I have over the Christian-- I am not afraid to die." Campbell responded, "You say you have no fear in death; have you any hope in death?" Owen answered, "No." Then Campbell said (pointing to an ox nearby), "You are on the level of that brute. He has fed till he is satisfied, and stands in the shade whisking off the flies, and has neither hope nor fear in death." Owen smiled, unable to deny Campbell's logic.
3. Coping with Despondency and worry - [F.F. Nov. 11, 86]
  - a. Get excited about heaven
  - b. Phil. 1:23 "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"
  - c. God has in store for the redeemed such great things that it will probably shock and startle the most optimistic of us.
  - d. "Death is not the worst thing, merely the last thing."
4. Hope is the anchor of the soul
5. Col. 1:23 "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,..."

---

**Sources**

1. F.H.C. Lectures - 1978 p. 125 Sermon by Dowell Flatt
2. S.S. Vol.13 # 3 April 82 p. 21
3. S.S. Vol.12 # 4 July 81 p. 13
4. A.L.C. Sept. 24, 61
5. Adult Quarterly Dec. 28, 69
6. F.F. Nov. 11,86 p. 14,15
7. See file on "HOPE"

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com