

## Hebrews 6:11-12

### False Diligence, False Hope

Biblical hope is a fruit, it is a fruit that comes when we live in truth and seek the truth of God with all the strength and passion that God gives us. But just as the world is filled with fruits that are good for us AND fruits that are very bad for us... so also are we are very capable of mistaking human wisdom, strength and passion for God's... and when this happens, the results are disastrous. We have been considering diligence, as a concept, as knowledge, as wisdom (which is knowledge applied) But there is a diligence that is false for its premise and its aim is false. This false diligence aims at producing false hopes, and where it succeeds, it destroys all who trust in its power.

#### I. FALSE HOPES DESTROY TRUE HOPE

- a. When we cling to false hopes, we lose interest in God

Psalm 78.1–8

i. Has a host of manifestations

1. Hope in mankind
2. Hope in "science"
3. Hope in money
4. Hope in power
5. Hope in self...
6. Hope in religion

b. Hope is contrary to all works, especially religious works.

i. Attempting to base your hope on your own righteousness will destroy your hope

**Galatians 5:1–6**

c. There is a pattern deeply driven into our natures that forces us to press after what we have fixed our hearts upon... no matter what the evidence may demonstrate... we see this clearly demonstrated in our culture constantly...

**Isaiah 57:1–13**

(especially vv10-13) <sup>10</sup> *You are wearied in the length of your way; Yet you did not say, 'There is no hope.' You have found the life of your hand; Therefore you were not grieved.* <sup>11</sup> *"And of whom have you been afraid, or feared, That you have lied And not remembered Me, Nor taken it to your heart? Is it not because I have held My peace from of old That you do not fear Me?"* <sup>12</sup> *I will declare your righteousness And your works, For they will not profit you.* <sup>13</sup> *When you cry out, Let your collection of idols deliver you. But the wind will carry them all away, A breath will take them. But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land, And shall inherit My holy mountain."*

## **II. WITHOUT GOD'S MERCY WE ARE DOOMED**

a.If God does not move in mercy, the only end is hell - and it is utterly without hope. Except for God, every single thing upon which we rest our assurance and confidence dies with us

- i. Jesus warned that fire is all that waits for those who are not His... Notice that the division was about what they were. Sheep and goats are NOT the same animal. But the revelation of their nature was connected to what they did, why.

### Matthew 25.31-46

- ii. Dante's Inferno has a sign over the doorway to Hell, most of us know the last line, but consider the whole of the verse...

“Through me, you pass into the city of woe:  
Through me, you pass into eternal pain:  
Through me among the people lost for aye.  
Justice, the founder of my fabric, mov’d:  
To rear me was the task of power divine,  
Supremest wisdom and primeval love.  
Before me, things create were none, save  
things Eternal, and eternal I endure.  
*All hope abandon ye who enter here.*”

- b. When all false hope finally was proven empty, the time for the revelation of His deliverance had come

**Ezekiel 37:1–14**

(especially vv 11- 14)

*<sup>11</sup> Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. <sup>14</sup> I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.’ ”*

- i. The hope that sustains is founded in the coming of Christ. HE is our hope... and we are His prisoners. Held captive in His love and kept safe until the day of His redemption... and the surety of our future is the hope He has planted in us that He will deliver...

Zechariah 9:9–17

### III. ALL HOPES BUT GOD WILL FAIL

Psalm 33:16–22

*Proverbs 10:28 (NKJV) <sup>28</sup> The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.*

*Proverbs 11:7 (NKJV) <sup>7</sup> When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.*

### IV. HOPE IN GOD WILL ALWAYS BE FULFILLED

- a. But waiting upon God is required

*Psalm 130:5–8 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. <sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. <sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. <sup>8</sup> And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.*

- b. A perspective that sees sin and sinners in the light of eternity sustains us

*Proverbs 23:17–18 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day; <sup>18</sup> For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off.*

- c. Partaking in good hope and avoiding rotten false hopes is essential

*Proverbs 24:13–14 (NKJV) <sup>13</sup> My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; <sup>14</sup> So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.*

But be sure of this one thing, when you belong to God, He will alter your desires so that you hunger and thirst for those things that are His.

Knowledge and wisdom will be your desires... not the passing pleasures of sin and the flesh... Do not be deceived beloved. God is making us fit for His presence, and one of the tools He uses is the nature of the things that we hope for, the flavor of our hope... we will pick it up there next week.