## "Our Blessed Hope!" The Person Of Hope 1 Thessalonians 1:3

## **Introduction:**

- 1. The Primary Theme For Our Services This Year Is:
  - Hope!
- A Biblical & Distinctly Christian Kind Of Hope:
  - A Hope That Is Certain:
    - And Not Just Some Kind Of Wishful Thinking!
- And Our Theme Verse:
  - Which Is A Good Verse For All Of Us To Even Memorize:
    - Is Found In Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope!" (In Today's Bulletin)
- 2. And So On Sunday Nights:
  - We Are Going To Look More Closely:
    - At The Bible's Teaching On Hope!
  - Now On New Years Day:
    - We Briefly Considered:
      - Where We Can Get:
        - The True & Timeless Hope That The Bible Describes In Both The Old & New Testaments!
  - Remember Where Jeremiah Found His Hope?
    - Lamentations 3:24 "The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him!"
      - The Source Of Jeremiah's Hope:
        - Was The Lord!
  - Remember Where David Found His Hope?
    - Psalm 42:5 "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God!" The Source Of David's Hope:
      - Was God!
  - And We Need To Always Remember:
    - Where Every Christian Can Find His / Her Hope!
      - In The Person Of Hope:
        - The Lord Jesus Christ!
- 3. And So For The Text Of Our Message Tonight:
  - Let's Turn Together To The New Testament Book:
    - Of 1 Thessalonians And We Will Read:
      - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. / We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; / Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father!"
  - Here At The Beginning Of His First Letter:
    - To The Thessalonian Church:
      - Paul Is Remembering Some Special Qualities:
        - In Their Church!
          - Qualities That Caused Him & Silvanus & Timothy:
            - To "Give Thanks To God Always" For Them!
    - And Just What Were Those Qualities?
      - 1:3 Their:
        - "Work Of Faith!"
        - "Labor Of Love!"
        - And "Patience Of Hope In Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
  - It Is This Third Quality:
    - That I Want To Focus Our Attention On Tonight!
      - The "Patience Of Hope In Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
        - The Hope Of The Thessalonian Christians:
          - Like Jeremiah / Like David / Like Paul Was In The Lord! The Lord Jesus Christ!

- Is Your Hope In The Lord Tonight?
  - How Can We Tell?
- 4. In Order For You To Have:
  - The Biblical & Certain Kind Of Hope:
    - That God Offers To His People:
      - There Are Three Things That You Need:
        - That We See From This Verse!
- \* First There Needs To Be:
- 1. The Proper Possession:
  - Of Hope! In 1 Thessalonians 1:3:
    - Paul Describes Their Hope In:
      - "Our" Lord Jesus Christ!
    - Paul Includes Himself In This Statement:
      - And Describes A Personal Relationship Between Them & Jesus!
        - As We Sometimes Sing "Now I Belong To Jesus And Jesus Belongs To Me!"
    - In Order For Them And For Us:
      - To Have True & Timeless Hope:
        - We Must "Possess" Jesus Christ Even As He "Possesses" Us!
          - And This Can Only Happen Through:
  - A Personal Faith:
    - In The Lord Jesus Christ!
      - This Is Where It Starts!
        - A Person Will Never Experience & Enjoy The Hope That God Offers:
          - If They Remain Apart From Him!
    - After All That Is Why Jesus Came!
      - To Save Us & To Bring Us True Hope!
        - Everything He Did!
          - His Birth / His Life / His Death On The Cross / His Resurrection!
    - Peter Puts It This Way In 1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, / Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!"
      - Have You Believed In Jesus Christ Alone:
        - And Are You Trusting In Jesus Christ:
          - As Your Own Personal Savior From Sin?
    - Through This Personal Faith:
      - You Now *Can* Say & Sing "Now I Belong To Jesus Jesus Belongs To Me Not For The Years Of Time Alone But For Eternity!"
        - He Is "Your" & "Our" Lord Jesus Christ!
    - And This Is Necessary:
      - In Order For Us To Have True Hope!
        - This "Lively Hope" As Peter Describes It! But Also There Needs To Be:
  - A Personal Fellowship:
    - With The Lord Jesus Christ!
      - It Starts With Faith And It Continues Through Fellowship!
        - IE: Have You Ever Found Something Around The House That You Forgot You Had? Like That \$20 Bill That You Found In Your Pocket After It Went Through The Wash! A Little Bit Of Excitement But It Was There All Along!
    - Many Christians Do Not Enjoy The Subjective Experience:
      - Of Their Hope In Christ:
        - Because They Are Not Spending Time With The Lord & Growing In Their Faith & Hope In Him!
    - This Is Why We Read In:
      - Hebrews 3:6 That We Are To "Hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end!"
        - When You Remain In Fellowship With The Lord You Will Experience A Greater Confidence & Joy In The Lord:

- And His Hope!
- This Fellowship Includes:
  - Spending Time With Him Through His Word & Through Prayer! Even Spending Time Growing Together With His People!
- Do You Have The Proper Possession:
  - Of The Hope Of Jesus Christ?
    - It Can Only Come:
      - Through Faith In Him & Fellowship With Him!
- \* But In Order For You To Have True Hope There Also Needs To Be:
- 2. The Proper Position:
  - Of Hope! Again In 1 Thessalonians 1:3:
    - It Is A Hope Focused On:
      - "Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
        - Here Paul Uses The Full Name & Title Of Jesus To Show Us Both How & Why We Must Keep Our Hope In Him!
    - If Your Hope Is In Any Other Person:
      - Your Hopes Will Be Dashed!
        - Because Noone Else Is Like Jesus!
          - Not Even Close! And So:
    - The Proper Position Of Your Hope Is In:
      - The Lord Jesus Christ Alone! And In:
  - The Power Of Christ:
    - As "Lord!"
      - "Lord" Here Means Master And It Implies That He Is Supreme In His Power & Authority!
        - As "Lord" Jesus Is Sovereign!
    - And So This Leads Us To:
      - The Very Identity Of Jesus:
        - If Jesus Is The Lord Then He Is God In The Flesh!
    - And So As "Our Lord" He Is Worthy Of Our Trust & Hope!
      - Even As David Preaches To His Own Soul:
        - In Psalm 43:5 To "Hope In God!"
          - When Our Hope Is In Jesus As "Lord" Our Hope Is In God!
    - The Proper Position Of Your Hope Is Also In:
  - The Purpose Of Christ:
    - As "Our Lord *Jesus*!"
      - The Personal Name Of Jesus:
        - Simply Means "Savior!"
    - And This Leads Us To:
      - The Purpose Of Jesus:
        - Coming Into The World In The First Place!
    - Jesus Himself Said So In Many Places:
      - Including Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!"
        - And So As "Our Lord Jesus" He Is Worthy Of Our Trust & Hope!
          - Because Of The Extent Of His Ability To Save!
    - It Is Not Just A Temporary Salvation & Hope:
      - From The Problems / Pain / Enemies That We All Face Right Now!
        - Because A Temporary Hope Is Not A True Hope At All!
          - We Know This From The Words Of Paul In 1 Corinthians 15:19 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable!"
    - So Instead What Jesus Offers Is A Timeless Salvation & Hope!
      - And A Complete Salvation!
        - Hebrews 7:24-25 "But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. / Wherefore he is able also to save them *to the uttermost* that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them!"
    - The Proper Position Of Your Hope Is Also In:
  - The Promise Of Christ:
    - As "Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
      - The Old Testament Title Of "Messiah!"
        - Which Means "The Anointed One!"

- The One Specially Chosen By God The Father:
  - To Accomplish & Consummate His Purposes For This World!
- Jesus Is The One:
  - Promised Throughout All The Ages Past:
    - To Rescue Us & Provide For Us:
      - What We Need Most!
        - A Relationship With Him!
- Do You Have The Proper Position:
  - For Your Hope?
    - It Can Only Be In:
      - The "Lord Jesus Christ!"
  - You Need To Keep Your Focus On Him As:
    - Your Lord & Sovereign God!
  - You Need To Trust In Him As:
    - Your Savior!
  - And You Need To Look To Him:
    - As He Fulfills All Of His Promises:
      - To You!
- \* And In Order For You To Have True Hope There Also Needs To Be:
- 3. The Proper Patience:
  - Of Hope! Further In 1 Thessalonians 1:3:
    - It Is A Hope That Results In:
      - "Patience!"
        - "Patience Of Hope In Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
    - This Is What Paul Remembered:
      - About Those Thessalonian Christians!
        - The Impact Of Their Hope On Their Everyday Lives!
          - Even Through Their Suffering & Their Struggles!
  - So How Can You Tell:
    - If & When You Have The Right Kind Of Hope:
      - Operating In Your Christian Life?
        - It Will Manifest Itself Through "Patience!"
    - In Fact "Patience" & "Hope" Are Mentioned Together Several Times In The New Testament:
      - And Are Closely Related!
  - Is Your Hope In The Lord Jesus Christ:
    - In Your Everyday Circumstances / Conditions:
      - In Life?
        - If It Is It Will Show Itself:
          - Through Patience In Those Circumstances!
    - We Often Call This Kind Of Patience:
      - "Contentment!"
        - You Are Able To Be Content Because Your Hope Is Not In The Things Around You, But In Christ!
      - Hebrews 13:5 Reminds Us:
        - Of This Kind Of Patience "Let your conversation (Lifestyle Ordinary / Everyday Circumstances) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee!"
    - Our Hope In The Lord:
      - Will Lead Us To Patience & Contentment:
        - No Matter What Circumstance We Face In Our Lives!
  - Is Your Hope In The Lord Jesus Christ:
    - In Your Trials & Your Personal Relationships:
      - In Life?
        - If It Is It Will Show Itself:
          - Through Patience In Those Trials!
    - We Often Call This Kind Of Patience:
      - "Longsuffering!"
        - You Will Be Able To Be Longsuffering Because Your Hope Is Not In Other People, But In Jesus!

- Ephesians 4:1-4 Reminds Us:
  - Of This Kind Of Patience "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, / With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; / Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. / There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling!"
- Our Hope In The Lord:
  - Will Lead Us To Patience & Longsuffering:
    - No Matter What Trial We Face In Our Lives Or In Our Relationships!
- Is Your Hope In The Lord Jesus Christ:
  - In Your Personal Walk & Relationship:
    - With God?
      - If So It Will Show Itself:
        - Through Patience In That Walk & Relationship!
  - We Often Call This Kind Of Patience:
    - "Perseverance!"
      - You Are Able To Persevere Because Your Hope Is In His Great Faithfulness To You!
  - Our Hope In The Lord:
    - Will Lead Us To Patience & Perseverance:
      - In Our Walk With God!
- Do You Have The Proper Patience:
  - From Your Hope?
    - You Can But Only If:
      - You Possess True Hope:
        - In The Lord!
  - And When You Do:
    - This Hope-Filled & Hope-Fueled Patience:
      - Will Lead To Greater:
        - Contentment!
        - Longsuffering!
        - And Perseverance!

## **Conclusion:**

- 1. In Order For You To Have True Hope:
  - There's One More Thing You Need:
    - And That Is The Proper Priority:
      - Of Hope!
  - In Romans 15:13 Paul Writes This Prayer Of Blessing:
    - "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost!"
      - Paul Knew That The Only Source:
        - For A Hope That Produces:
          - Joy & Peace & An Abiding & Abundant Hope:
            - Is God!
  - And So Our Priority Should Be:
    - To Always Go To The Lord:
      - When We Are Struggling With Hope!
- 2. And That Is Why David Could Write:
  - In Psalm 31:23 "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD!"
    - Keep Your Hope In The Person Of Hope!
      - "Our Lord Jesus Christ!"

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