

“Our Blessed Hope!”
The Power Of Hope

Introduction:

1. Romans 15:4 Tells Us:
 - “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope!”
 - This Is Our Theme Verse For Sunday Nights:
 - As We Explore Together What The Bible Teaches Us About Real Hope!
2. Last Sunday Night:
 - We Looked At:
 - The Person Of Our Hope:
 - As Christians – The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - He Is Our Hope!
 - As Our Sovereign & As Our Savior:
 - The Promises He Makes To His People:
 - Are The Promises He Keeps!
 - To All Who Come To Him & Believe In Him As Their Savior From Sin!
3. Tonight - We Are Going To Look More Closely At:
 - The Power Of This Hope:
 - That Jesus Christ Offers To His People!
 - That Is:
 - What Does Our Hope In Christ:
 - And Our Hope From Christ:
 - Actually Provide & Accomplish In Our Lives?
 - I Believe That The Scripture Teaches:
 - That Our Christian Hope:
 - Provides Us With Rich & Unending Blessing!
 - See This In - Jeremiah 17:7 - “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is!”
 - “Whose Hope & Confidence & Trust The Lord Is!”
 - When Your Hope Rests In The Person Of Hope:
 - You Will Receive Many Blessings That You Can Experience:
 - Both Now & For Ever!
4. So - For Tonight - We Are Going To Explore Together:
 - Seven Great Blessings:
 - That Flow From Our Hope In The Lord!
 - Our Hope In “Our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - And These Blessings:
 - Are What God Uses To Fuel & Empower:
 - Our Lives & Service For Him - No Matter What We Face!

* The First Blessing Is:

1. ***The Blessing Of Rest!***
 - Hope In Lord Brings:
 - The Blessing Of True Rest!
 - Psalm 16:8-9 - “I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. / Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope!”
 - This Psalm Of David Is Also A Messianic Psalm - It Even Describes The “Hope” That Jesus Himself Possessed While He Was In This World!
 - And Even The Soul Of Jesus Christ Was Able To “Rest In” The “Hope” That His Heavenly Father Had Promised Him In:
 - Psalm 16:10 - “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption!”
 - What A Blessing!
 - To Be Able To “Rest In Hope!”
 - Now - When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing In Our Lives?

- Whenever You Are Weary!
 - Whenever You Are Tired & Worn Out From The Struggles & Suffering You Face Every Day In This Sin-Cursed World!
- When You Are Weary:
 - Jesus Himself Offers You The:
 - Hope Of His Rest!
 - Matthew 11:28-30 - “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. / Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. / For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!”
 - The Hope Of Christ’s Rest Is What Will Help Us As We Serve Him In Our Lives:
 - So That We Will Not Become “Weary In Well Doing!”
- This Is The Power Of A Christian’s Hope!

* The Second Blessing Is:

2. The Blessing Of Strength!

- Hope In The Lord Brings:
 - The Blessing Of His Strength!
 - Psalm 31:24 - “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD!”
 - What A Blessing!
 - To Be Able To Receive Strength From Your “Hope” In The Lord!
 - Now - When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing In Our Lives?
 - Whenever You Are Weak!
 - Whenever You Are Struggling With Physical, Emotional, Spiritual Weakness!
 - When You Are Weak:
 - Jesus Himself Offers You The:
 - Hope Of His Strength!
 - When Paul Was Struggling With A “Thorn In The Flesh” - Some Problem That Affected Both His Body & His Spirit - Many Believe It Had Something To Do With His Eyes!
 - But Listen To His Own Testimony:
 - From 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. / 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. / 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. / 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong!”
 - The Hope Of God’s Grace & Strength To Help Him Through His Weakness & Pain Caused Him To Rely Upon God’s Strength Instead Of His Own!
 - And The Hope Of God’s Strength Will Help You In Whatever Your Weakness May Be!
 - This Is The Power Of A Christian’s Hope!

* The Third Blessing Is:

3. The Blessing Of Peace!

- Hope In The Lord Brings:
 - The Blessing Of His Peace!
 - Psalm 42:5 - “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance!”
 - What A Blessing!
 - To Be Able To Receive Peace From Your “Hope” In The Lord!
 - Now - When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing In Our Lives?
 - Whenever You Are Worried!
 - Whenever Your Soul Is “Cast Down” & “Disquieted” - As David’s Was!
 - When You Are Worried:
 - Jesus Himself Offers You The:

- Hope Of His Peace!
 - Jesus Told His Disciples In John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid!"
- The Hope Of God's Peace Will Help You:
 - Whenever You Face Conflicts With Others Or Even Conflicts In Your Own Heart!
- This Is The Power Of A Christian's Hope!

* The Fourth Blessing Is:

4. The Blessing Of Joy!

- Hope In The Lord Brings:
 - The Blessing Of His Joy!
 - Psalm 146:5 - "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God!"
- What A Blessing!
 - To Be Able To Receive Joy From Your "Hope" In The Lord!
 - When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing In Our Lives?
 - Whenever You Are Weeping!
 - Whenever There Is Sorrow And Sadness In Our Life - Because Of Sin Or Loss Or Pain!
 - Romans 12:12 Reminds Us That We Can Always Be:
 - "Rejoicing In Hope!"
 - When You Are Weeping:
 - Jesus Himself Offers You The:
 - Hope Of His Joy!
 - In John 16 - As Jesus Was Telling His Disciples About His Departure From Them - He Said - 16:20-22 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. / A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. / And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you!"
 - And The Hope Of God's Joy Will Help You:
 - Turn Your "Mourning Into Dancing" When You Will Someday Give Praise & Thanks To The Lord Forevermore!
 - This Is The Power Of A Christian's Hope!

* The Fifth Blessing Is:

5. The Blessing Of Purity!

- Hope In The Lord Brings:
 - The Blessing Of His Purity & Holiness!
 - 1 John 3:2-3 - "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. / And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure!"
- What A Blessing!
 - To Be Able To - One Day - See The Lord Jesus:
 - "As He Is!"
 - And To Experience His Holiness & Righteousness!
 - When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing In Our Lives?
 - Of Course - Right Now! Today & Every Day!
 - This Should Be Our Longing, Whenever We Are Wandering!
 - Whenever We Are Struggling With "Every Weight, And The Sin That Doth So Easily Beset Us!" (Hebrews 12:1)
 - And So - When You Are Wandering:
 - Jesus Himself Gives You:
 - The Grace And Strength:
 - To Help You "Purify" Yourself "Even As He Is Pure!"
 - After All - This Is What Jesus Came To Do!

- Titus 2:11-14 - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, / Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; / Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; / he gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works!"

- So It Is Jesus Himself Who Purifies Us With The Hope That He Gives Us!

- And The Hope Of His Purity Will Help You:

- To Be "Holy Even As He Is Holy!"

- This Is The Power Of A Christian's Hope!

* The Sixth Blessing Is:

6. The Blessing Of Grace!

- Hope In The Lord Brings:

- The Blessing Of His Sustaining Grace!

- 1 Timothy 4:10 - "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe!"

- "Trust" Here Can Also Be Translated "Hope!"

- What A Blessing!

- To Be Able To Be Nourished & Sustained:

- By The Grace Of God - All The Days Of Our Lives!

- When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing?

- All The Time!

- There Will Never Be A Time When We Do Not Need His Grace!

- But Especially When:

- We Are Serving & Working For The Lord!

- In 1 Corinthians 9:9-10, Paul Writes - "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? / Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope!"

- God Wants His Servants To:

- Plow In Hope!

- Thresh In Hope!

- And Partake In Our Hope!

- And So - When You Are Serving & Working For The Lord:

- Jesus Himself Will Sustain You & Provide For You:

- As You Serve Him!

- Philippians 4:19 - "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!"

- And The Hope Of His Grace Will Help You:

- No Matter Where You Serve!

- And No Matter How You Serve!

- This Is The Power Of A Christian's Hope!

* The Seventh & Final Blessing That We Will Look At Tonight Is:

7. The Blessing Of Assurance!

- Hope In The Lord Brings:

- The Blessing Of His Assurance!

- Hebrews 6:10-12 - "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. / And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: / That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises!"

- What A Blessing!

- To Be Able Have Assurance & Confidence:

- In The Lord & His Work!

- When Do We Need To Experience This Blessing?

- Whenever We Are Wondering:

- About Things In Our Lives As Christians!

- Whenever We Have Questions Or Face Doubts!

- When You Are Wondering:

- Jesus Himself Provide The Assurance & Confidence You Need!

- Later - In Hebrews 10:19-23 - "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, / By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; / And having an high priest over the house of God; / Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. / Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)!"

- And The Hope Of His Assurance Will Help You:

- When Your Faith Seems To Be Wavering!

- This Is The Power Of A Christian's Hope!

Conclusion:

1. Our Hope As Christians:

- Is Very Powerful!

- When You Are Weary – It Offers Rest!

- When You Are Weak – It Offers Strength!

- When You Are Worried – It Offers Peace!

- When You Are Weeping – It Offers Joy!

- When You Are Wandering – It Offers Purity!

- When You Are Working – It Offers Grace!

- When You Are Wondering – It Offers Assurance!

- But The Reason Our Hope Is So Powerful:

- Is Because Our Hope Is Not:

- Just *IN* A Person – Our Hope *IS* A Person!

2. As Paul Writes In 1 Timothy 1:1 - "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, who is our hope!"

- Jesus Himself Is Our Hope!

- And So - All Of These Blessings That We Have Looked At:

- Give Us Hope:

- Because Every One Of These Blessings Can Only Be Found In Him!

- Jesus Alone Is Our "Blessed Hope!"

- And All Of These Blessings Of Hope:

- Flow Through Him!

- So - In The Words Of Paul - We Need To Keep:

- "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!" (Titus 2:13)

* "Jesus Is All The World To Me!"

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