

HOPE

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I. The sadness of “no hope”

A. The Gentiles had no hope in Old Testament days

Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

B. There is little mention of hope in the Old Testament—and probably little hope

Rth 1:12 ...If I should say, I have hope...

Job 7:6 My days...are spent without hope.

C. Sometimes Old Testament hope is actually prophesying of the hope Jesus had

Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

Psa 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Psa 22:9 But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts.

D. The prophets did speak of hope

Lam 3:17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.

Lam 3:18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:

Lam 3:19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

Lam 3:20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

Lam 3:21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

Lam 3:22 *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

Lam 3:23 *They are* new every morning: *great is* thy faithfulness.

Lam 3:24 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Lam 3:25 The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him.

Lam 3:26 *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

E. Yet it is questionable as to how much even the prophets really had to hope in

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Eph 3:3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery...

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...

Eph 3:9 And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

II. New Testament hope is tied to resurrection

Act 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Act 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Act 26:6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

Act 26:7 Unto which *promise* our twelve tribes, instantly serving *God* day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.

Act 26:8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1Th 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

III. Our certain hope is in knowing the gospel of God's unfailing salvation by grace

A. God planned it

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Heb 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:

Heb 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Heb 6:19 Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

B. God paid for it

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

Rom 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

C. God applies it

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Tit 3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Tit 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Eph 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Eph 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...

IV. Jesus is the way to get to heaven—the only way—the exclusive way

Mat 1:21 ...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

2Ti 1:8 ...the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling...

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

V. Knowing that Jesus is the way is not the way—Jesus is the way

Joh 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

A. Old Testament Jews (who knew little about the way) are in heaven

Mat 22:32 I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Luk 9:30 And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:

Luk 9:31 Who appeared in glory...

B. Infants (who knew nothing about the way) are in heaven

2Sa 12:23 ...I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

C. Men from every nation (who knew nothing about the way) are in heaven

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

D. Not believing does not mess up the way

Rom 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

VI. Knowing that Jesus is the way is the way to certain hope

A. Knowing the truth of the gospel of the certain hope of resurrection makes you free

Joh 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

B. Knowing the certain hope of certain salvation will guard your mind

1Th 5:8 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.

C. Knowing the certain hope of resurrection gives patience in troubles

1Th 1:3 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;

D. Knowing the certain hope of resurrection saves you, as you yearn for better things

Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

Rom 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

Rom 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Rom 8:23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

Rom 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?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

E. Knowing the certain hope of resurrection leads to paths of righteousness

1Jn 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...

1Jn 3:2 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.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

VII. A closing prayer

Rom 15:13 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.
