

Klemzig Gospel Night
27.02.2010
What Hope Do I Have?

1. Human beings have been created to be forward looking creatures, and we are expectant and hopeful about things in the future. Because we have been made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28), we are designed to be filled with trust and hopeful expectation of what he promises and what he gives.
2. Hope is connected with trust, and also love. We hope in God is to put our trust in him. To put our trust in him is only possible if we know that he is the God who loves us and will not leave or forsake us. Hope is therefore connected to the promises of God. We hope in what he says he will do. We believe what he says he has done. In many of the Psalms we read of people who put their hope in God, even in the midst deep difficulties (e.g. Psalm 38:15; 39:7; 42:5; 43:5; 62:5; 71:5; 130:5-6; 131). To have our hope in God means that we wait for God and we trust him with our cares and worries, and call out to him even when our sins have overwhelmed us.
3. Even in times of great national and personal suffering, hope is directed to God (e.g. Lamentations 3:19-38), even if the suffering had been brought about by continued national disregard for God and rebellion against him.
4. God's Old Testament people had to learn many times to put their hope in God and not in their own ability. Moses warned them about having confidence in themselves (e.g. Deuteronomy 8:11-20), and they repeatedly had to learn that they could not hope in any human system or leader (e.g. Psalm 118:8-9; 146:3-4; Isaiah 31:1-3.; Jeremiah 17:5).
5. Human beings are made to have hope in God himself. He is our Father, and we are designed to have our hope, trust and love orientated to him. Because we have exchanged this true hope in God for false hope in idols; our own strength; or the systems or leaders in whom we put our trust; we become disappointed and disillusioned. We then become bitter and resentful, angry and hard of heart. We become very self centred and selfish. But we are designed to have hope in God, who is the only sure hope (1 Timothy 6:17).
6. Our true Hope (rather than our short term 'hopes') is in God, who has sent Jesus for us. Before he came to us we were 'without God and without hope in the world' Ephesians 2:12), but in Christ God has taken away all our sins so that we can know him our Father and have true hope (2 Thessalonians 2:16). He has given us access to his presence, by his grace in which we stand, and this keeps us in true hope (Romans 5:1-5).
7. Ultimately we hope for the full redemption of our bodies in the final resurrection, and the total transformation of the whole creation (Romans 8). We are not made to find our 'hopes' satisfied in this world. We are built to look and long for the world to come (Titus 1:2; 2:13).
8. Jesus is the hope that God has sent us (1 Timothy 1:1). Hope has a face and a name. Hope comes as a person i.e. Jesus the son of God. In him we have true Hope from God (1 Peter 1:21).
9. This hope is sure and certain, because in Jesus God has fulfilled all his promises (2 Corinthians 1:20) and all the he has promised us in him will certainly come to pass (Hebrews 6:16-20).