

“The Hope Of The Gospel”
Colossians 1:23

Introduction:

1. Two Weeks Ago - We Started Looking At:
 - Seven “Points Of Hope”:
 - That Is - Seven Elements Of Our Hope:
 - As Christians - That Gleam From Heaven To Earth:
 - And Help Us Keep Our Sights Set On Our Blessed Hope – Jesus Christ Himself!
2. And So - The First Point Of Hope:
 - That We Will Look At Tonight Is Found In:
 - Colossians 1:23 - “The Hope Of The Gospel!”
 - 1:21-23 - “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled / In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: / If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from ***the hope of the gospel***, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister!”
 - So - One Of The Greatest “Points Of Hope” Is:
 - “The Hope Of The Gospel!”
3. Now - We Think This Is Rather Obvious!
 - Because The Gospel - By Virtue Of Its Very Definition:
 - Gives Hope!
 - It Is “Good News” To Those Who Are Lost In Their Sin!
 - **IE:** Even As Light Gives Hope To Those Who Are In Darkness - When You Are In A Cave!
 - And So The Gospel:
 - Gives Hope To Sinners!
 - But What We Discover From This Verse:
 - And From Our Own Experience:
 - Is That The Gospel Continues To:
 - Give Hope To The Saints!
 - To Christians!
 - To Those Who Have Already Responded To & Believed In The Gospel – The Good News Of Jesus Christ!
 - And This Is A Wonderful Truth!
 - The Gospel Is What God Uses:
 - To Give Hope:
 - To Both Sinners & Saints!
 - To Both Unbelievers & Unbelievers!
4. And That Is Why Paul Tells Us That:
 - We Are Not To Be:
 - “Moved Away From The Hope Of The Gospel!”
 - We Must Never Get Over It!
 - **IE:** And We Must Continually Go Draw From Well Of The Gospel To Retrieve Fresh Hope From The Good News & The Great News We Have In Jesus Christ!
5. So - For Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Look At More Closely:
 - “The Hope Of The Gospel” For:
 - Christians!
 - And Even Though The Gospel Is Based On:
 - What Has Happened In The Past:
 - There Is Still So Much Future Hope:
 - In The Gospel:
 - When You Are A Christian!
 - So - Just What Is The Gospel?
 - To Answer This Question:
 - We Are Going To Spend The Rest Of Our Time:
 - In One Of The Premier Passages On The Gospel:

- 1 Corinthians 15! So Please Head There With Me As Well!

6. This Is The Gospel:
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; / 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. / 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: / 5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: / 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. / 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. / 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time!”
7. Now - In These Verses - We Read About 4 Elements:
 - Of The Gospel:
 - First Element - The Death Of Christ:
 - 15:3 - “Christ Died For Our Sins According To The Scriptures!”
 - Second Element - The Burial Of Christ:
 - 15:4 - “And That He Was Buried!”
 - Third Element - The Resurrection Of Christ:
 - 15:4 - “And That He Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!”
 - Fourth Element - The Life Of Christ:
 - 15:5 - “And That He Was Seen!”
 - For The Christian - There Is Still Great Hope:
 - In Each Element Of The Gospel Itself!
1. ***There Is Hope In The Death Of Christ!***
 - The First Element We Find:
 - In 1 Corinthians 15:3 - “Christ Died For Our Sins According To The Scriptures!”
 - In These Words - We Discover:
 - The Price Of The Gospel:
 - “Christ Died!”
 - This Price Was Undeserved!
 - Jesus Was Perfect! He Was Pure! So He Sacrificed Himself On The Cross For The Sins Of Others! For Your Sin & My Sin!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 - “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him!”
 - The Price Of His Blood Is Precious!
 - And The Price Of His Blood Reveals The Depth Of His Love!
 - **IE:** Corrie Ten Boom - “There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still!”
 - Is There Any Pit Deeper Than Our Own Sin? And God's Love Reached Deeper Than That When Christ Died!
 - Also Discover:
 - The Problem Of The Gospel:
 - “Christ Died For Our Sins!”
 - This Is Your / My Problem! A Sin Problem!
 - It Is A Deep Problem!
 - All Of Us Could Be Described In Isaiah 1:4, 6 - “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. / From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment!”
 - The Purpose Of The Gospel:
 - “Christ Died **For** Our Sins!”
 - “For” Means: In The Place Of / For The Sake Of Someone!
 - When Jesus Christ Died On The Cross:
 - He Took Your Problem:
 - Upon Himself!
 - And He Took Your Place:
 - For Himself!

- Isaiah 53:5 - “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed!”
- There Is Hope In The Death Of Christ:
 - For Sinners - But There Remains:
 - Much Hope In The Death Of Christ:
 - For Saints - For Christians As Well!
 - Because Christ Died:
 - There Is Hope For You:
 - When You Die!
- Remember Paul’s Words In Philippians 1:23-24:
 - “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: / Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you!”
 - For Paul - The Death Of Christ Made His Own Death Something To Look Forward To:
 - Because To Be “With Christ” – “Is Far Better!”
- Think About It:
 - As A Christian - When You Die:
 - There Will Be No More Sorrow:
 - To Deal With!
 - There Will Be No More Suffering:
 - To Go Through!
 - There Will Be No More Sin:
 - To Contend With!
 - There Will Be No More Sting:
 - To Feel!
 - 15:55 - “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”
- So - If You Are A True Christian - The Death Of Christ:
 - Gives You Hope – Real Hope:
 - When You Die!
 - It Is Because Of The Gospel You Can Say With Paul - Philippians - “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain!”
 - There Is Hope In The Death Of Christ – And:

2. ***There Is Hope In The Burial Of Christ!***

- The Second Element Of The Gospel We Find:
 - In 1 Corinthians 15:4 - “And That He Was Buried!”
 - The Burial Of Jesus Christ:
 - Is Perhaps The Most Overlooked Element Of The Gospel!
 - And Yet, It Is Just As Important As The Others!
 - Because Without This Truth, There Would Be No Gospel!
 - After All:
- His Burial Was Prophesied!
 - Not Just His Death!
 - Isaiah 53:9 - “And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth!”
- His Burial Was Predicted!
 - By Jesus Himself – Using The Illustration Of The Prophet Jonah!
 - Matthew 12:40 - “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth!”
- His Burial Was Prepared For!
 - When The Women Poured Oil On Jesus:
 - In Matthew 26:14 - “For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial!”
 - And In Mark 14:8 - “She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying!”
- And The Reason Why His Burial Is So Important Is Because:
 - While Jesus’ Death:
 - Paid The Penalty Of Sin!
 - Jesus Burial:

- Displays What God Does With The Sin That Was Paid For!
 - He Buries It - Forever - Out Of His Sight!
- So - There Is Hope In The Burial Of Christ:
 - For Sinners - But There Remains:
 - Great Hope In The Burial Of Christ:
 - For The Saints - For Christians As Well!
 - Because Christ Was Buried:
 - There Is Hope For You:
 - When You Are Buried!
- So - Since You Are Trusting Jesus:
 - As Your Savior:
 - Not Only Does His Death Become Your Death!
 - But His Burial Becomes Your Burial!
- Romans 6:3-7 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? / Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. / For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: / Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. / For he that is dead is freed from sin!”
- So - If You Are A True Christian - The Burial Of Christ:
 - Gives You Hope – Real Hope:
 - When You Are Buried!
 - There Is Hope In The Death Of Christ!
 - There Is Hope In The Burial Of Christ! – And:

3. ***There Is Hope In The Resurrection Of Christ!***

- The Third Element Of The Gospel We Find:
 - In 1 Corinthians 15:4 - “And That He Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!”
 - Now - After The Death & Hasty Burial Of Jesus:
 - Both His Enemies & Even His Disciples Thought It Was “The End!”
 - After All - They Had Been To Many Funerals & Burials Themselves! And This One Seemed To Be No Different!
 - But What We Just Read Is What Makes The Gospel Of Jesus Christ:
 - Not Just Good News, But Great News!
 - Jesus “Rose Again The Third Day According To The Scriptures!”
 - The Resurrection Of Jesus:
 - Verifies His Identity!
 - It Proves That He God, Who Alone Has The Power To Give Life!
 - Romans 1:4 - “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead!”
 - The Resurrection Of Jesus:
 - Validates His Instruction!
 - Because Jesus Foretold His Resurrection On Several Occasions!
 - Mark 8:31 - “And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again!”
 - Mark 9:31 - “For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day!”
 - So - There Is Hope In The Resurrection Of Christ:
 - For Sinners - But There Remains:
 - Great Hope In The Resurrection Of Christ:
 - For The - For Christians As Well!
 - Because Christ Rose From The Dead:
 - There Is Hope For You:
 - To Be Raised From The Dead!
 - Remember Jesus’ Own Words:
 - To Martha - In John 11:25 - “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he

that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: / And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

- So - If You Are A True Christian - The Resurrection Of Christ:
 - Gives You Hope – Real Hope:
 - When You Too Will Be Raised From The Dead!
 - There Is Hope In The Death Of Christ!
 - There Is Hope In The Burial Of Christ!
 - There Is Hope In The Resurrection Of Christ! – And:

4. *There Is Hope In The Life Of Christ!*

- The Fourth Element Of The Gospel We Find:
 - In 1 Corinthians 15:5 - "And That He Was Seen!"
 - These Words Reveal To Us The Post-Resurrection Appearances Of Jesus Christ!
 - "He Was Seen!"
 - What A Remarkable Truth!
 - So - Starting In 15:5 - Paul Shares The Testimony Of Many Eyewitnesses Who Saw The Risen Lord!
 - And Offers This As Further Proof For The Resurrection Of Jesus From The Tomb!
- Jesus Was Seen Personally!
 - He Was The Same One Who Had Lived Among Them!
 - He Was The Same One Who Had Taught Them!
 - He Was The Same One Who Had Loved Them!
 - He Was The Same One Who Died For Them!
 - He Was The Same One Who Was Buried By Them!
 - And Now - He Is The Same One Who Is Seen By Them:
 - Alive!
 - He Was Seen Personally!
 - And This Is Proof Of His Resurrection & His Life!
- He Was Seen Physically!
 - When Jesus Showed Himself To His Disciples:
 - It Was In His Own Physical, Resurrected Body!
 - He Could Walk With His Resurrected Body!
 - He Could Talk With His Resurrected Body!
 - He Could Eat With His Resurrected Body!
 - He Could Touch & Be Touched In His Resurrected Body!
 - He Was Seen Physically!
 - And This Is Further Proof Of His Resurrection & His Life!
- He Was Seen Purposefully!
 - Jesus Spent 40 Days After His Resurrection Here On Earth! 40 Days!
 - Acts 1:3 - "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God!"
 - And This Is Continuing Proof Of His Resurrection & His Life!
- So - There Is Hope In The Life Of Christ:
 - For Sinners - But There Remains:
 - Great Hope In The Life Of Christ:
 - For The Saints - For Christians As Well!
 - In The Words Of Christ Himself:
 - John 14:19 - "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also!"
- So - If You Are A True Christian - The Life Of Christ:
 - Gives You Hope – Real Hope:
 - When You God Will Keep His Promise To You And Give You Everlasting Life!
 - Even The Ancient Patriarch Job Understood This Principle - Job 19:25-27 - "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: / And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: / Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me!"

Conclusion:

1. This Is The "Hope Of The Gospel!"

- And We Must Never Be “Moved Away” From It!
 - Because - Remains Good News For All Who Believe:
 - In Christ!
- 2. So Keep Looking At The Gospel:
 - For Hope!
 - There Is Hope In The Death Of Christ!
 - There Is Hope In The Burial Of Christ!
 - There Is Hope In The Resurrection Of Christ!
 - And There Is Hope In The Life Of Christ!

* “Wonderful Words Of Life!”

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