

“The Period Of Our Hope”
1 Corinthians 13:13

Introduction:

1. Tonight - We Come To The Final Message:
 - In Our Series On:
 - Hope - Which We Started On The Very First Sunday:
 - Of 2017!
 - And So - I Want To Revisit:
 - The Main Themes That We Have Already Looked At:
 - And Then Sum Everything Up By Looking At:
 - One Final Point About The Period Of Our Hope:
 - That Is - How Long Our Hope Is Meant To Last!
2. So - To Begin - Let's Go Back Together To:
 - Lamentations 3:21-26 - “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. / 22 It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. / 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. / 24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. / 25 The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. / 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD!”
 - In These Six Verses:
 - We Find The Word “Hope” Three Times!
 - And Because “Hope” Is So Prevalent Here & All Throughout Scripture - We Can Learn About:
 - The Great Need For Hope!
 - Because Without It - In The Words Of Jeremiah:
 - We Would Be “Consumed!”
 - Because Sin Causes Us To Be Utterly Helpless & Hopeless!
 - We Also Learn About:
 - The Great Meaning Of Hope!
 - Because The Hope That We All Need:
 - Is Drastically Different Than:
 - The Hope That We Are Often Offered:
 - By This World!
 - Our Use Of Hope:
 - Involves Desire - Something We Want:
 - And **Uncertainty!**
 - God’s Use Of Hope!
 - Also Involves Offering Us Something Desirable:
 - But It Is **Certain!**
 - A Christian’s Hope:
 - It Is Not Based On Potential:
 - But On The Promises Of Almighty God!
 - Never Forget This!
 - But We Also Learn About:
 - The Great Source Of Hope:
 - Who Is Also:
 - 1. **The Person Of Our Hope!**
 - In The OT - Jeremiah Describes Him As The Lord!
 - In The NT - Paul & Others Identify Him:
 - As The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - 1 Thessalonians 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!”
 - And In Order To Have Real Hope:
 - You Must Have A Personal Faith:
 - In Christ!
 - This Is Where It Starts!
 - A Person Will Never Experience & Enjoy The Hope That God Offers:
 - If They Remain Apart From Him!
 - You Must Have A Personal Fellowship:

- With Christ!
 - 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!”
- This Fellowship Includes:
 - Spending Time With Him Through His Word & Through Prayer! Even Spending Time Growing Together With His People!
- And So - When We Are Struggling With Hope:
 - Our Priority Should Be:
 - To Always Go To The Lord Jesus:
 - Who Is Our Blessed Hope!

* We Also Looked At:

2. ***The Power Of Our Blessed Hope!***

- This Is What Our Hope In Christ:
 - Actually Provides & Accomplishes In Our Lives!
 - It 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!”
 - And We Discovered Seven Great Blessings:
 - That Flow From Our Hope In The Lord!
- Hope In Christ Offers:
 - The Blessing Of Rest:
 - When You Are Weary!
 - The Blessing Of Strength:
 - When You Are Weak!
 - Psalm 31:24 - “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD!”
 - The Blessing Of Peace:
 - When You Are Worried!
 - The Blessing Of Joy:
 - When You Are Weeping!
 - Psalm 146:5 - “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God!”
 - The Blessing Of Purity:
 - When You Are Wandering!
 - The Blessing Of Grace:
 - When You Are Working & Serving!
 - The Blessing Of Assurance:
 - When You Are Wondering!
- This Is The Power Of A Christian’s Hope!
 - But The Reason Our Hope Is So Powerful:
 - Is Because Our Hope Is Not:
 - Just *IN* A Person – Our Hope *IS* A Person!
 - 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)

* We Also Looked At

3. ***The Properties Of Our Hope!***

- That Is - The ***Kind*** Of Hope That Every Christian Has:
 - In Christ!
 - In The New Testament - We Find 6 Descriptions!
- It Is An Enlivening Hope!

- If Offers Life!
- It Is An Excellent Hope!
 - Hebrews 7:19 - “For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God!”
- It Is An Extensive Hope!
 - It Is A Treasure, An Inheritance, A Kingdom, and Riches Of Glory!” (John Gill)
- It Is An Expected Hope!
 - Romans 8:24-25 - “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? / But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it!”
- It Is An Everlasting Hope!
 - Because It Is Linked Directly To The Everlasting Life Of Our Savior Jesus Christ!
- It Is An Encouraging Hope!
 - Romans 5:5 - “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us!”
- This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - Because This Is The Kind Of Savior We Have!

* We Also Looked At:

4. *The Purpose Of Our Hope!*

- Which Is - Quite Simply:
 - To Share It!
 - 1 Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!”
- How Can You Be Ready?
 - Study The Gospel!
 - Share The Gospel!
 - Use The Resources We Have Available!
- Never Forget:
 - The Purpose For Your Hope!

* We Also Looked Extensively At:

5. *The Points Of Our Hope!*

- There Are 7 Main “Points Of Hope” In The New Testament:
 - That Are Like Rays Of Light That Gleam:
 - From Heaven To Earth!
 - And They Are Given To Every Christian:
 - So That We Can Keep Our Sights Set On Our Blessed Hope!
- First Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of The Gospel (Colossians 1:23)
 - The Good News Of:
 - His Death!
 - His Burial!
 - His Resurrection!
 - Although The Gospel Is Based On:
 - What Has Happened In The Past:
 - There Is Still So Much Future Hope:
 - In The Gospel:
 - For Us As Christians!
- Second Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of Salvation:
 - 1 Thessalonians 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!”
 - The Four-Fold Salvation From:
 - From The Pleasure Of Sin!
 - From The Penalty Of Sin!
 - From The Power Of Sin!
 - From The Presence Of Sin!
- Third Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of Eternal Life (Titus 1:1-2)
 - Not Just The Kind Of Life:

- We Live Now!
- But The Kind Of Life:
 - God Originally Designed Life To Be!
- It Is A Life Of Eternal Happiness:
 - Instead Of The Sorrow & Despair:
 - We Often Experience In This Life!
- It Is A Life Of Eternal Health:
 - Instead Of The Sickness & Diseases:
 - We Know All Too Well!
- It Is A Life Of Eternal Holiness:
 - Instead Of The Sin & Depravity:
 - That Infests Our Hearts!
- It Is A Life That Experiences Heaven Itself:
 - Instead Of Living In The Shadows Of A Fallen World!
- Fourth Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of His Calling!
 - Ephesians 1:18 - "That ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints!"
 - This Means - You Can "Know" That:
 - By His Grace:
 - God Has Chosen **You!**
 - God Has Called **You!**
 - And God Is In The Process Of Changing **You!**
 - "To Be Conformed Into The Image Of His Son!" (Romans 8:29)
- The Fifth Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of The Promise!
 - The Promise Of The Resurrection Of The Dead!
 - And Our Faith Hangs On This Hope!
 - John 11:25-26 - "Jesus said – 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?"
- The Sixth Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of Righteousness!
 - Galatians 5:5 - "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!"
 - Our Hope Is That One Day:
 - We Will Finally & Fully Be Conformed To The Character Of God Himself!
 - It Will Be A Complete Righteousness!
 - It Will Be A Christ-Like Righteousness!
 - It Will Be A Constant Righteousness!
- The Seventh Point Of Hope:
 - Was The Hope Of The Glory Of God!
 - And This Is Our Great Expectation!
 - Isaiah 40:5 - "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it!"
 - The Glory Of God:
 - Will Finally & Fully:
 - Be Revealed To You!
 - And The Glory Of God:
 - Will Finally & Fully:
 - Be Revealed In You!
- Keep Your Minds & Hearts Full:
 - Of These Points Of Hope:
 - Because They Are God's Gifts Of Light To All His Children As We Live In This World Of Darkness!

* And Our Final Consideration For Tonight Is:

6. The Period Of Our Hope!

- 1 Corinthians 13:13 - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. / And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity!"

- In This Final Verse & This Most Famous Chapter:
 - On Biblical Love - We Discover The Relationship Between These 3 Christian Graces:
 - Faith & Hope & Love!
 - I Believe They Are Placed Here In A Logical Order!
- Our Faith Will Lead To Hope Which Will Lead To Love:
 - ***In*** Jesus Christ - Our Blessed Hope:
 - And ***For*** Him!
 - And So:
 - The Greater Your Faith Is:
 - The Greater Your Hope Will Be!
 - And The Greater Your Hope Is:
 - The Greater Your Love Will Be!
- When Your Faith In Christ Increases:
 - Your Hope In Christ Will Increase!
 - And When Your Hope In Christ Increases:
 - Your Love For Christ:
 - Will Continue To Grow & Fuel Your Service To Him!
- So - Faith & Hope & Love:
 - Are Closely Related:
 - And Will Keep You Going:
 - In Your Christian Life!
 - And Will Keep You Growing:
 - In Your Christian Life!
- And According To This Verse:
 - These Three Graces - Especially Hope:
 - Are What "Now Abideth!"
 - God Has Given You This Hope:
 - For The Here & Now!
- But For How Long? How Much Longer?
 - Until 13:12 Takes Place!
 - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known!"
 - So - Now - We Have "Faith & Hope & Love!"
 - But Then:
 - Your Faith:
 - Will Turn To Sight!
 - Your Hope:
 - Will Be Fulfilled!
 - And Your Love:
 - Will Be Complete & Perfected!

Conclusion:

1. And Who Will We See "Face To Face"?
 - Christ Jesus Himself!
 - Who Remains Our Blessed Hope!
 - And This Brings Us Full Circle Back To The Very Beginning Of Our Series On Hope!
 - It Is All About Our Savior!
2. And So - Now - What Are We To Do With The Hope:
 - That We Have Been Given?
 - No Matter What Kind Of Hopeless Or Helpless Situation You May Be Going Through:
 - Remember The Testimony Of Abraham - Romans 4:18 - "Who against hope believed in hope!"

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