

# Construction in Progress

## Lesson 3: BUILDING HOPE

### Introduction

- What is HOPE?
  - By definition, HOPE is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.
  - Unlike TRUST, HOPE is often times temporary, and we choose many things over hope daily.
- What are some examples of HOPE that we can find in the Bible?
  - An unexpected example can be the thief on the cross during Jesus' crucifixion.
    - Read Luke 23:39-43
    - *"And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in \_\_\_\_\_."*
  - Despite the horrible situation and impending death coming for the thief, he chose to HOPE that Jesus was who people said he was, and was rewarded because of it.
- Though the world throws doubt, fear, pain and suffering at us, God gives us something to believe in, a reason for us to have HOPE.

### 1.) Where We Start

- a.) Even from the beginning of our lives, we are aware that our existence will end and are left with questions of "what's next."
  - i. This curiousness we have is instilled upon us by God. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)
    - 1. *"...Also, he has put \_\_\_\_\_ into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the \_\_\_\_\_."*
  - ii. Does this curiousness apply only to Christians?
    - 1. Other world religions have their own theories about what happens after death (i.e. Hindus and Reincarnation, Vikings and Valhalla)
  - iii. Despite different believed outcomes, almost all religions agree we are not meant to exist to only disappear.
- b. Though the world religions found these "answers" themselves, Christians are set apart.
  - i. Where does our HOPE and answers comes from? (1 Peter 1:3)
    - 1. *"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living \_\_\_\_\_ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...."*
    - 2. Unlike other world religions, our HOPE is not found in what we have constructed/ believe, but instead in what God has revealed to us.

- c. Not only is our HOPE not founded on our own answers, but our hope is not bound to things on earth.
  - i. Read Colossians 3:1-4
    - 1. Where is our focus meant to be? (v.1) \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2. Who holds the key to our life as believers? (v.3) \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3. When we give Christ our life, what are we promised? (v.4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. We didn't come to Jesus to have more HOPE in this life, but because we realized HOPE in this life is meaningless. Instead we came for more!
    - 1. *"I am the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one comes to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6)
    - 2. We came to Jesus because he gave us HOPE for a better life beyond earth, and because He provided a way for it.

## 2.) How we Grow

- a. We understand that our reward for HOPE is eternal life with God, Jesus, and fellow believers, but just because our HOPE is beyond this life does not mean we neglect our work on earth.
  - i. Our otherworldly HOPE causes us to strive for purity on this earth (1 John 3:1-3)
    - 1. *"And everyone who thus hopes in him \_\_\_\_\_ himself as he is pure."* (v.3)
    - 2. Once again we aren't able to find this purity ourselves, but instead strive for it by focusing our eyes on Christ. (Hebrews 12:2)
  - ii. We will always remain in pursuit of purity, but we will never fully complete it until we are in Heaven.
    - 1. This does not mean that we should be discouraged at our shortcomings, but instead rejoice that the Lord offers us grace in those times.
      - a. Ephesians 1:6-8
        - i. Where does our forgiveness and redemption come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. Our choice to have HOPE is not something that comes naturally, but is a CHOICE that we must make.
  - i. The businessman hopes for financial success, the athlete hopes for a championship, but we hope for something far greater than this earth can provide.
- c. In order for us to choose to not only have HOPE but to grow it, we must develop habits that allow us to foster its growth.
  - i. For our HOPE to GROW our focus must be in the right place from the start; on God and things of Heaven.
    - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:19

2. *“If in Christ we have hope in \_\_\_\_\_ life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.”*
- ii. Instead of hoping only for things on this earth, we hold HOPE in his calling (Ephesians 1:18), the HOPE of glory (Colossians 1:27), and above all the HOPE of salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8).
  1. All these things are so grand that they cannot be contained within our HOPE on this earth, but instead fall on our HOPE of eternal life (Titus 3:7)
- d. It is because of all of these things that our HOPE stays fostered in eternity and the life beyond this one.
  - i. Much like the Israelites wandering through the wilderness, we wander throughout our life on this earth knowing that where we are is not our permanent home.
    1. Hebrews 11:13-16
      - a. What were the people mentioned in chapter 11 seeking?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 14)
      - b. What was their reward for not turning back to what they knew, but instead focusing on what God promised them? \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16)
    2. Much like the Israelites, we’re not destined to roam the wilderness forever, we are not called to be confined to earth forever but instead find our citizenship in Heaven. (Philippians 3:20)

### **3.) The ‘Finished’ Product**

- a. We finally come to where we are now. We are currently at a temporary home, much like the Israelites during their exile to Babylon when taken by Nebuchadnezzar.
  - i. Just like Israel, we are promised that God will fulfill his word to us and bring us home. (Jeremiah 29:10-11)
    1. Even when the Israelites were at their lowest, they were able to look to the future, much like we are able to today.
    2. Much like the Israelites exile of 70 years, so is our time on earth (Psalm 90:10)
- b. Because of this promise of HOPE beyond, we choose to look to the future God has for us.
  - i. We don’t give in and allow our hope to die and face things like the world does. (1 Corinthians 15:32).
  - ii. Instead we put our FAITH in a living HOPE. (1 Peter 1:3), and the time to cling to that HOPE is now! (Romans 13:11)