

# In a Word - Hope

## Introduction

- We live in a world of hopelessness
  - Disease, division, depression, despair and devastation are a part of our world
  - For those who find themselves here, the suffering can be unbearable
  - Even for those who believe and serve God, Job said in his misery...

“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, And are spent without hope. Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good. (Job 7:6–7)

- But even in the worst of times there can be hope for the believer.

## I. Hope Defined

- a. The word “hope” is used two ways in the scriptures
  - i. Used nearly 75 times in the NKJV of the New Testament
- b. In its verb form, such as “A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.”

For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits. (1 Corinthians 16:7)

- c. Noun Form = Trust, confidence
  - i. Desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment.”
  - ii. “Someone or something on which hopes (verb) are centered.” (God is our hope.)
  - iii. “Something desired or hoped for.” (The hope of heaven.)
- d. Where does hope come from? What is the source of hope?

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:5)

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

- i. The “scriptures” mentioned here is the Old Testament. The new Testament scriptures are the fulfillment of the Old Testament.
- ii. By and through the inspired scriptures, delivered to the Apostles by the Holy Spirit, we learn of hope and have hope.
- e. When considering the hope of the bible, the hope of the gospel there are two things
  - i. The “hopeless” and the “hopeful”

## II. The Hopeless

- a. So many people have no hope, because they do not believe in God.

When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes. (Proverbs 11:7)

- b. Without belief in the after life and faith in God, all one knows is this life. There's not consideration for eternity
  - i. The rich man of Luke 16, lived a good life but realized too late that there is much more...

And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (Luke 16:23)

- c. No hope after this life because of unbelief.
  - i. What causes inconsolable grief at death?
  - ii. Why are people shocked and dismayed at the passing of the elderly?

But I do not want you to be ignorant (unlearned), brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14)

- d. What of those who believe in a false hope?
  - i. Never obeyed the gospel, never serve or worship. Never giving, enjoying God's blessings (as in Matthew 5:45) but never reacting to those blessings?
  - ii. Yet, these people believe they will go to heaven, they don't believe in hell.

In flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)

- iii. There is a lake of fire (Revelation 21:8)
- iv. We can't make up our own truth as some folks, we must obey the truth of the gospel.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

- e. The truth is there is no hope outside of Christ

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands (12) that at that time you 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. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:11–13)

- f. For the person who does not believe, there is hopelessness, but for the believer there is hope.

### III. The Hopeful

- a. The people of the Old Testament had hope, hope in the Lord, hope of the coming Messiah..

Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope (verb) in the LORD. (Psalm 31:24)

For You are my hope (noun), O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth. (Psalm 71:5)

- b. New Testament believers have hope in Jesus Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3)

- c. Hope brings optimism, can defeat negative, pessimistic, or cynical attitudes.
- d. Hope comes because of God's promises

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:23)

- i. God has given us great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4)
- ii. God is not slack concerning His promises (2 Peter 3:9)

- e. Our hope is our anchor. It is what makes us steadfast and immovable in difficult times.
  - i. Can we become discouraged? Yes, Job did, but never lost his hope and trust in the Lord.

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 6:19–20)

- f. Knowing Jesus Christ will come again gives us hope

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

- i. Hope comes because we know Christ will return. In a passage that describes the Christian's hope not only in Christ's return but in our own resurrection, Paul writes...
- ii. Faith and hope are closely connected.

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? (Romans 8:24)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

- iii. Even though we do not know the day or hour, the hope of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and our own resurrection gives peace and comfort.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, (17) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. (2 Thessalonians 2:16–17)

#### **IV. Hope is Available to All**

- a. God has made hope available to all mankind, the whole human race...

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11–14)