

HOPE: ANCHOR OF THE SOUL - II

Heb 6:18-19

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

I. SEEING THE BIG PICTURE.

- A. *Where there is no vision the people perish.*
- B. *Never lose sight of the big picture; the overall plan and purpose of God.*
- C. *Sometimes we need direction through the maze of the forest called life between where we are and our ultimate destination.*
 - 1. The issues of everyday life may be very mundane yet very real and crucial.
 - 2. Become sidetracked with these mundane issues such as being weighted down with the cares of this life, discouragement, depression, and even hopelessness as well as a myriad of other emotional issues.
- D. *Direction may simply be given by hope; or the expectation that we will reach our destined end.*

II. WHAT IS HOPE?

- A. *Hope not yet manifested.* (Rom 8:24-25 KJV) 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.
 - 1. Hope is futuristic; a vision; goal; purpose.
 - 2. Hope is the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out well (optimism).
- B. *I think it's time the church be optimistic.*
 - 1. Optimism.
 - a. The existing world is the best possible.
 - b. The doctrine or belief that good ultimately prevails over evil; The tendency to take the most hopeful or cheerful view of matters or to expect the best outcome.
 - c. The practice of looking on the bright side of things.
 - 2. Pessimism.
 - a. The doctrine or belief that the existing world is the worst possible.
 - b. The doctrine or belief that the evil in life prevails over the good; the tendency to expect misfortune or the worst outcome in any circumstances.
 - c. The practice of looking on the dark side of things.
- C. *We do have expectations, which by definition are futuristic.*
 - 1. There are unfulfilled promises to see fulfilled.
 - 2. There is a complete inheritance to inherit.
 - 3. There is an eternal kingdom to possess.
 - 4. There is a throne to ascend to.
 - 5. We have the expectation of His full revelation and manifestation.
 - 6. With this expectation comes the expectation of being like Him.
 - 7. The whole creation has the expectation of the manifestation of the Sons of

God. (Rom 8:19 KJV) For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. (Rom 8:20 KJV) For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, (Rom 8:21 KJV) Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom 8:22 KJV) For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. (Rom 8:23 KJV) And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

8. We have the expectation that all enemies be put under foot, including the last enemy of death.
9. We have the expectation of the kingdoms of this world becoming the kingdoms of the Lord and of His Christ.

D. ***But there is a space between the promise and the fulfillment.***

1. It is through this space that we must overcome and persevere.
2. It is through this space we must slay the giants.
3. It is through this space we must admonish, encourage, exhort, edify one another.
4. Paul and Barnabus “confirmed the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”
5. It is through this space where we deal with soulish issues--especially the realm of emotional issues.
6. We as apprehended Sons of God often struggle with emotional issues (the weights which so easily besets us).

E. ***We are to lay hold upon the hope set before us--which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, which is both sure and stedfast.***

III. DEFINITIONS.

- A. ***Anchor.*** Any device that holds something else secure; anything that gives or seems to give stability or security; to keep from drifting.
- B. ***Soul.*** The realm of the will, mind, and emotions; the seat of human feelings or sentiments; The seat of personality; that which makes you distinct from others.
- C. ***Stedfast.*** Fixed in direction; firm in purpose; unwavering; unshakeable.

IV. AN ANCHOR IS NEEDED IN TROUBLED WATERS.

A. ***Anxious times.***

1. A survey found increasing angst, especially among baby-boomers who are desperate "for a meaning in life."
2. Angst - A gloomy, often neurotic feeling of generalized anxiety and depression.
3. Anxiety. A State of being uneasy, apprehensive, or worried about what

may happen; concern about what may happen; concern about a possible future event.

4. Crime is causing a loss of faith in traditional institutions, breeding cynicism.
5. Cynicism - The belief that people are motivated in all their actions by selfishness, denying the sincerity of people's motives or actions; denying the value of living.

B. ***Because people lack optimism, they are turning to the spiritual.***

1. Astrology; sightings of ghosts; apparitions; angels, voodoo, meditation, New Age beliefs; even UFO's.
2. And there are millions who are turning to mainstream religions to fill a "deep, innate, basic human need" to calm rising fears of an uncertain future.
3. My expectation is that multitudes will not just turn to religion, but to the "Living God."

V. HOPE BECOMES OUR ANCHOR IN TROUBLED WATERS.

A. ***We are "to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."*** (Heb. 6:17-19).

1. An anchor keeps you from wandering or drifting out to sea.
2. Keeps you in the right port.
3. Offers surety, steadfastness, refuge.

B. ***Again, what is hope?***

1. Hope is yet futuristic; not yet seen.
2. Hope may be defined by purpose or vision; something expected.

C. ***We are not as those who have no hope; we have vision and purpose.***

1. If hope is found anywhere, it should be found in our churches.
2. If there is one place you should find settledness and certainty, it should be in the churches, which should be a reflection of the kingdom of God.
3. Should be able to find optimism; uplifting; encouragement; will to go on; a vision for the future.
4. Unfortunately, too many churches have a dim hope for the future.

D. ***True hope is found in the purposes of God; and we are here to fulfill the purpose of God.***

VI. SAUL OF TARSUS WAS CONVERTED FOR A PURPOSE (Gal. 1:15-16).

A. ***Not once, did he say that God converted him to spare him from hell.***

B. ***"It pleased God to separate me from my mother's womb..."*** (Ga. 1:15-16).

1. To reveal His son in me.
2. To preach him among the heathen.

C. ***Saul received his sight for a purpose.*** (Acts 22:12-15 KJV) And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which

dwelt there, Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

1. And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and
2. see that Just One, and shouldest
3. Hear the voice of his mouth.
4. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.

D. ***Jesus appeared to Saul for purpose.*** (Acts 26:15-18 KJV) And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose,

1. To make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
2. Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee (a man of God will never be effective until he is delivered from the people),
3. To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

VII. NEED FOR FAITH AND HOPE.

- A. *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (Heb. 11:1).
- B. *"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise."* (Heb. 10:36).
- C. *"And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

VIII. EXHORTATION.

- A. ***To the church:***
 1. You have been called to purpose.
 2. Follow those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
- B. ***To David and Michelle.***
 1. David, you have been a faithful servant of the Lord.
 2. You have surrounded yourself with faithful men.
- C. ***To David and the Church:*** The glory of the latter house shall be greater.
 1. A foundation had been restored. (Ezra 3:10 KJV) And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel. (Ezra 3:11 KJV) And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy

endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

2. Ancient men wept for joy. (Ezra 3:12 KJV) But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:
3. The young shouted for joy. (Ezra 3:13 KJV) So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.
4. The glory of the latter to be greater than former.
 - a. (Hag 2:3 KJV) Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?
 - b. (Hag 2:9 KJV) The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.