

# “Hope Does Not Disappoint”

(By Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Job 34:3 - “For the ear tests words, As the palate tastes food.”
  - 1. Rom. 5:5, 8:24 - There is something special about this kind of hope
  - 2. Hope that does not disappoint - This hope is rational, based on the goodness and truth of God, and not the subjective interpretations of human experiences
    - a. It is based on absolutes - Heb. 6:17-19
    - b. It is based on a proven record - Psalm 22:4-5
  - 3. Hope that saves - We are kept, preserved, sustained in our trials, by hope. Our trials are so great that nothing but the prospect of future deliverance would uphold us; and the prospect is sufficient to enable us to bear them with patience.
  - 4. “Exactly at the instant when hope ceases to be reasonable it begins to be useful. Hope is the power of remaining cheerful in circumstances which we know to be desperate” (G. K. Chesterton, Heretics).
- B. Defining hope
  - 1. Hope - “to cherish a desire with anticipation” (Merriam-Webster)
  - 2. “In Scripture, according to the Hebrew and Greek words translated into the word “hope” and according to Biblical usage, hope is “an indication of certainty; a strong and confident expectation” (Hampton Keathley)
  - 3. It is one of the three greatest virtues, greater than miracles, benevolence, and sacrifice - 1Cor. 13:13

## I. IT IS A HOPE GENERATED BY THE WISDOM AND WILL OF GOD

- A. Prov. 23:17-18 - “Do not let your heart envy sinners, But be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.”
  - 1. Prov. 24:14 - “Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.”
  - 2. Prov. 24:20 - “For the evil man has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.”
  - 3. Col. 1:5 - “The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel”

## II. IT IS A HOPE BASED ON THE POWER OF GOD

- A. 1Peter 1:21 - “Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God”
  - 1. 1Peter 1:3 - “In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
  - 2. 1Tim. 4:10 - “We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.”
- B. 2Cor. 1:10 - “He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us.”

1. Isa. 40:31 - "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

### **III. IT IS A HOPE BUILT ON THE GRACE OF GOD**

- A. 2Thes. 2:16 - "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope"
  1. Titus 3:7 - "So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."
  2. 1Peter 1:13 - "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

### **IV. IT IS A HOPE ANCHORED BY THE FACT OF RESURRECTION**

- A. 1Cor. 15:19 - "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." - Acts 17:31; 1John 3:1-3

### **V. IT IS A HOPE THAT TRANSFORMS ORDINARY MEN**

- A. 1Tim. 6:17 - To put confidence in what cannot be seen rather than what can
- B. 1Thes. 4:13 - "Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who have fallen asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope."
  1. "Those who hope for no other life are dead even for this" (Johann Wolfgang von Goethe).
- C. Sustained - 1Thes. 1:3 - "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ"
  1. When we do nothing, we feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when we get involved, we feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing we are working to make things better.
- D. Self-controlled - 1Thes. 5:8 - "But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet"
- E. Secure: 2Cor. 3:12- "Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold"

#### **The Captivity**

By Oliver Goldsmith

To the last moment of his breath  
On hope the wretch relies;  
And e'en the pang preceding death  
Bids expectation rise.

Hope, like the gleaming taper's light,  
Adorns and cheers our way;  
And still, as darker grows the night,  
Emits a brighter ray.