

Hope For The End Times

*'Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but when the desire comes, it is a
tree of life'*
(Prov.13:12)

God gives real hope even in the worst of circumstances

'I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope'
(Jer.29:11)

Hope is a certain expectation of good

1) Hope gives perspective to suffering

'For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us'

(Rom.8:18)

'Consider' = to reckon, to take an inventory and arrive at a proper conclusion by a process of logical reasoning

Don't react to suffering or deny it but learn to reckon it correctly

- ✓ **The *unbeliever* only thinks about the present**
- ✓ **We have a long-term vision in a short-term world**
- ✓ **History is not endless. The 2nd Coming of Christ will usher in an eternal realm**
- ✓ **We enjoy the Christian life as we learn to reckon *this***
- ✓ **Moses, the Psalmist, Paul, Jesus and others all did this**

'Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal'

(2 Cor.4:16-18)

2) Our hope is glorious

'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God'

(Rom.8:19)

Our eternal hope includes:

- ✓ **To be clothed in immortality**
- ✓ **The final and complete overthrow of evil**
- ✓ **Reigning with Christ in His kingdom**
- ✓ **Seeing God and being changed into His likeness
Matt.5:8; Jn.17:24; 1 Jn.3:2. Christ in you is the
hope of glory. Titus 2:13; Col.1:5**

3) Our hope keeps us looking forward

- ✓ **3 essential ingredients to life – earning, learning and yearning**
- ✓ **All of creation is looking forward...**
- ✓ **...to the manifestation of the sons of God**
- ✓ **We are already sons of God, but we have not been manifested as such**
- ✓ **When Jesus returns His glory will be seen by all. And we will be glorified together with Him**
- ✓ **We look forward to this with boasting; not backwards upon our failings with fear!**

'For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God'
(Rom.8:20-21)

'Futile' means something which is not fulfilling its function as intended

Creation was subjected to futility by God at the fall. But it was subjected to futility in hope

There is going to be a crisis, a conclusion, a climax, a judgment and a new beginning

'For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body'

(Rom.8:22-23)

- ✓ **We also groan because of the pain caused by sin**
- ✓ **Jesus groaned at Lazarus' tomb**
- ✓ **Hope produces this groaning**
- ✓ **We are not just going to escape this world; we are going to be glorified with Him**
- ✓ **As we have borne the image of the earthly, so we shall bear the image of the heavenly**

'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?'

(Rom.8:24)

- ✓ **Hope does not disappoint**
- ✓ **We are not disappointed with the present because of the future**
- ✓ **Faith looks back to the finished work of Christ, but hope looks forward. The ultimate end of our salvation is our glorification**

'Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ' (1 Pet.1:13)

4) The Holy Spirit teaches us to distinguish hope from fatalism

'Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose'

(Rom.8:26-28)

- ✓ **Our problem, in the midst of suffering, is what should we pray for? (Gk. 'the what')**
- ✓ **Deliverance or for strength to endure?**
- ✓ **Jesus learned obedience by the things that He suffered. Paul too**
- ✓ **When the disciples were on earth, they asked Jesus to help them to pray. When Jesus ascended, He didn't give us a formula. He left us His Spirit. Now the Holy Spirit helps us**
- ✓ **Without the Spirit we would always just pray for our temporal needs to be met**
- ✓ **The Holy Spirit knows the will of God for our situation and helps us to pray in accordance with His will**

- ✓ **There are times when words are not even necessary**
- ✓ **We utter the groans and sighs but it is the Spirit who produces them**
- ✓ **This does not mean that everything that happens to us is good, but that it will work for good**
- ✓ **It is a part of His work of preparation for the manifestation of the sons of God**
- ✓ **The glory of the Christian life is that there is nothing without meaning. All has purpose**