

Hope for the Hurting Heart

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”

Hebrews 6:19

This past Sunday, we enjoyed learning and worshiping in the truth of our confident expectation (hope). Real Biblical hope does not arise from our desires or our wishes but from God, who is Himself the believer's hope: David said: *“My hope is in you”* (Psalm 39:7). Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future. *Note: (Romans 8:24-25; Hebrews 11:1-7).*

Hope distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever, who has no hope (Ephesians 2:12, 4:13). A Christian is one in whom hope resides (1 Peter 3:15, 1 John 3:3). From Roman's chapter 5, we have noticed that we have; a glorious hope (Romans 5:2): A hope that causes us to endure (Romans 5:4): A hope that makes us unashamed (Romans 5:5). Our inward joy that is based on hope brings with it the grace of holy boldness in the declaration of our hope. Many times we fail to show unbelievers the joy of our hope. We do not speak enough of the wages that our Lord will pay at the end of the day or His faithful help that He has always performed on our behalf in times of our helplessness. We even go around discouraged, even though we have every reason to be the happiest people on God's earth.

Let us cause unbelievers to know the fragrance of the sweet perfume of our joyous hope, even as the two Mary's of the Gospels did. *Note: (Luke 7:36-50) and (John 12:1-11).* Let us especially tell those who seem most likely to laugh at us, for I have learned by experience that some of these are the most likely to be affected. They are aware of an unrest within their hearts, and they hunger for something better than this empty world can give them. It frequently happens that as soon as they learn what is good, they accept it. Even if they are not hungering for God, I do not know of any better way of making someone long for food than for us to eat from the Lord's table of hope. The onlooker will feel his mouth water and will suddenly get an appetite.

May we enjoy true godliness so much that we never bring shame upon it, or feel shame concerning it. Come, then, you that have this glorious, enduring, bold hope, let all men see that it's real. He has helped us, He is helping us and He will help us in the days ahead, and after this life is over, we will live with Him, being made like Him forever!

Did Christ finish his work for us? Then there can be not doubt that he will finish His work in us. God has never torn up a Christian's birth certificate and no soldiers of Christ are ever lost, missing or left dead on the battlefield!

Today I have prayed for all of our church family and I have prayed the blessing of Moses upon us:

The Lord bless thee and keep thee:

The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee,

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26