

## NOTES

## ~ Hope ~

1. What hope is and its connection to faith
  - a. Hope is the *anticipation* of what we know by faith (defined), so it's a faith today that will be manifested in the future . . .
  - b. Faith enables us to hope for what we can't see. (**Romans 8:24-25**)
2. We're saved by grace and heirs according to our hope. (**Titus 3:5-7** & **Matthew 25:32-34**)
3. Hope through the resurrection. (**1Peter 1:3-5**)
4. Obedient out of faith because of our hope (also 1Peter 1:3-5). And we hope for what's true. If Christ hadn't died and been raised, there'd be no hope in our own salvation. (1Corinthians 15:15-19).
5. How do we overcome the world and its corruption, seeking Christ and right living?
  - a. We hold fast to that hope and stay strong
    - i. Stay fast despite trials (**1Peter 1:6-13**)
    - ii. Give an account for hope despite suffering (1Peter 3:14-15)
    - iii. We are more than conquerors (Romans 8:35-39)
  - b. Tribulation brings perseverance, perseverance brings proven character, and character brings hope (Romans 5:1-8)
  - c. We have hope through perseverance and encouragement of the Scriptures (Romans 15:4-5)
  - d. Minimize risks
    - i. Physical: stay fit/healthy
    - ii. Emotional: Avoid stressors
    - iii. Spiritual: Fellowship, Bible study, prayer

**Summary:** Faith is the assurance – confidence – that enables our blessed hope: The return of our Christ in the future to gather us to Him and our God. We hope because we believe now. We hope because our current belief has led to obedience out of faith. Because we believe, we act. Because we act, we'll live. In the meantime, learn and grow your faith to help you to live in righteousness. Repent (change your behavior from your change of heart) when you act against God and His ways.

## NOTES

Review of why we need hope

Confident because of the gifts, prophecies, eyewitness accounts, etc.

Hope, this week

Hope defined

We can hope for what we can't see because of faith

What did we - and do we - anticipate?

## ~ Hope ~

Because of the sinful behavior mankind has introduced into his world, that world and our situations can sometimes seem hopeless. But, we're **confident** of intercession and salvation that God, His Spirit, and our Christ bring. Jesus and those who've seen him, like Paul, have taught us to persevere through trials in anticipation of our salvation. You'll learn that the anticipation of Jesus' return and our being saved from the wrath to come is our *hope*.

So far, we've learned that God acted out of true love for mankind and gave us a variety of gifts that have leant themselves to our eventual salvation: **fulfilled prophecies** to the coming, death, and resurrection of our Christ – Jesus. These actions out of love have been confirmed and consistent, giving us confidence – faith.

This week, we'll look at hope, which is an **anticipation** of the things God will do or fulfill because we're confident He'll keep His word.

How are hope and faith connected? Hope is the *anticipation* of what we know by faith. Let's look at the **[definition]**:

Without faith, it would be impossible to hope. Why would we hope for something we had no confidence in? Would we 'anticipate with pleasure' getting a new TV for Christmas if we'd never celebrated Christmas before or ever received a gift for that matter?

But, because of faith, we can hope for what we can't see. **[Romans 8:24-25]**

Let's talk about what we hope for . . .

Foretelling of the  
Messiah

Christ as the one  
sacrifice for all and all  
time

We're heirs with  
Christ and saved by  
grace through hope

Peter reminds us of  
hope through the  
resurrection

God foretold of the coming Messiah and the salvation He would bring. Jesus' appearance, death, and resurrection – all prophesied about in advance – made possible a way out of the death sentence we'd been given through Adam. Even Israel had to conduct regular rituals and sacrifices to show her obedience and repentance.

Now, we have a sacrifice in Jesus that becomes the 'one sacrifice for all'. Again, this was made possible through the gift of Jesus' death and resurrection by way of God the Father. This gift of salvation is free to all who will accept and enter into covenant with Jesus.

This grace shown by God through our Christ will save us and makes us an heir to the kingdom of God (heaven). This is our anticipation – our hope. **[Titus 3:5-7] [Matthew 25:32-34]**

As we just saw, the righteous will inherit heaven and eternal life. In the revelation given to John (Revelation 21:7-8) we're reminded that God will be ours if we will be his. Sound familiar? It should – it's the same covenant God has desired to have with mankind since the beginning and most recently with Israel through Abraham and Moses and finally with Jesus.

But we only have this hope because we believe Jesus died for the purpose of becoming a final sacrifice for all and was then raised on the third day according to prophecies. Our hope is only possible through that resurrection as we learn from Peter. **[1Peter 1:3-5]**

Paul later explained to the Church in Corinth that we're all cooked if the resurrection is a lie (1Corinthians 5:15-19).

No resurrection, no hope

Reminder that faith must result in action

What about keeping that hope?

How?

Stay strong

Give an account

More than conquerors

So, no resurrection, no nope. But we're confident of that resurrection because of the things that have built our faith – fulfilled prophecies, eyewitness accounts of the Christ (before and after the resurrection) and miracles, etc.

As we discussed over the last couple of weeks, faith alone isn't enough. In our "Mr. Jones and the beer truck" example, just knowing that Mr. Jones would be hit by the truck at precisely 3:00 PM did nothing for anyone without action. In the same way, our faith must lead to action. Now, we're obedient out of faith because of our hope.

It's easy to have faith and hope when we feel good and things are going our way. But what about when bad things happen as we discussed last week? Or when our faith is shaken through some kind of deceit? Remember the friend I told you about whose faith was shaken because of the Zeitgeist video?

So, how do we keep our faith and, therefore, hope? How do we overcome the world and its corruption, seeking Christ and continuous right living?

- We hold fast to that hope and stay strong despite trials
  - Stay fast despite trials. Remain strong . . . **[1Peter 1:6-13]**
  - Give an account for our hope despite suffering. We know bad things will happen to us for a variety of reasons including discipline by God, training by God, our actions, the actions of others, the world we've created, or just because stuff happens. But, we need to be so sure of our hope of salvation and why we have that hope that we can **confidently** tell others. **[1Peter 3:14-15]**
  - Remember that we are more than conquerors through Jesus. No matter what happens in the flesh, we can avoid God's coming judgment and inherit heaven and eternal life when we nurture that relationship with Him (remain a faithful *bride*, as we've discussed). **[Romans 8:35-39]**

Tribulation –  
perseverance –  
character – hope.

Encouragement  
through the Scriptures

Minimize risks

**Summary**

- Tribulation brings perseverance, perseverance brings proven character, and character brings hope. In other words, we should use our trials and experiences to strengthen, improve, and mature us. Again, this is similar to what a body builder or diligent student might do. **[Romans 5:1-8]**
  
- We have hope through perseverance and encouragement of the Scriptures. Remember that a great deal of our confidence – faith – comes from the eyewitness accounts and fulfilled prophecies we see in the Bible. **[Romans 15:4-5]**
  
- Minimize risks
  - **Physical:** stay fit/healthy. Poor physical condition or unhealthy living can be a catalyst for sin. For instance, a lack of adequate energy can affect your desire to follow Christ through action. Poor health can cause emotional issues (anger, depression, etc.) which can get in the way of right living.
  - **Emotional:** Avoid stressors. The flesh can definitely get in the way when we're not careful! And that flesh can drive the spirit off a cliff (so-to-speak).
  - **Spiritual:** Fellowship, Bible study, prayer. We've got to keep the 2-way communications between our and God's Spirits open. Strong faith and resulting action geared toward treating God honorably and man charitably, and spreading the gospel will be aided by these things.

**Summary:** Faith is the assurance – confidence – that enables our blessed hope: The return of our Christ in the future to gather us to Him and our God. We hope because we believe now. We hope because our current belief has led to obedience out of faith. Because we believe, we act. Because we act, we'll live. In the meantime, learn and grow your faith to help you to live in righteousness. Repent (change your behavior from your change of heart) when you act against God and His ways.

For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. —Romans 8:24-25.

But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness . . . so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. —Titus 3:4-7.

All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. —Matthew 25:32-34.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. —1Peter 1:3-5.

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look. Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. —1Peter 1:6-13.

But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED**, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence —1Peter 3:14-15.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:35-39.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. —Romans 5:3-8.

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus —Romans 15:4-5.