

GRACE THAT BRINGS HOPE **(Titus 2:11-13)**

I. What is hope?

- A. Hope involves the future and the unseen (Romans 8:24-25).
 - 1. Our hope is rooted in realizing that the greatest blessing for Christians haven't been realized as yet.
 - 2. (Colossians 1:5; Titus 1:2).
- B. There are three pictures in the Bible that help us understand hope.
 - 1. Hope is a door - a way out of despair (Hosea 2:15).
 - 2. Hope is a helmet to shield us from harsh blows of life (1Thessalonians 5:8).
 - 3. Hope is an anchor to sustain us in life's storms (Hebrews 6:18-19).
 - a. In Greek culture, the anchor was a symbol of hope.
 - b. Socrates said, "To ground hope on a false assumption is like trusting a weak anchor."
- C. Hope is the answer to meaning in life.
 - 1. Solomon tried to find meaning thru pleasure, labor, accomplishments and wisdom (Ecclesiastes 2).
 - 2. He found meaning in preparing to meet God (Ecclesiastes 12).
- D. Hope looks to the future with expectation and causes us to live right today in order to expect a better tomorrow.

II. What does hope do for us?

- A. Hope produces endurance in trial (1 Thessalonians 1:3).
 - 1. Romans 5:1-6.
 - 2. To lose hope is to lose heart.
 - 3. Ecclesiastes 9:4.
- B. Hope produces purity in life.
 - 1. 1 John 3:3.
 - 2. Titus 2:11-14 - this hope for His second coming causes us to live life as God wants us to.
- C. Hope produces an optimistic outlook.
 - 1. Optimism is an attitude produced by faith.
 - 2. If our Heavenly Father is in charge, why fear?
- D. Hope produces calmness in the face of death.
 - 1. The world sees death as a hopeless end, the Christian sees death as an endless hope (Proverbs 14:32).
 - 2. Because of what Jesus did we do not have to sorrow as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

III. Types of hope.

- A. A living hope (1Peter 1:3 - one version says, "we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead").
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:19.
 - 2. Some are miserable because their faith is rooted in this world.
 - 3. Titus 1:2.
- B. A false hope.

1. Matthew 7:21-23.
 - a. They had hope because they thought they'd done enough good deeds.
 - b. Jesus said they hadn't done His will so they had a false hope.
 2. Zechariah 9:12 - Israel had nothing left but hope and it was false because they were going to be destroyed.
 - a. Some today are prisoners of false hope.
 - b. They haven't obeyed God, but hope for some way to be saved.
 3. Job mentions the hope of hypocrites (Job 27:8-10).
 - a. It appears hypocrites have what they want in life.
 - b. He has no real hope because God won't hear him.
 4. Even the wicked have some expectation of good (Proverbs 11:7; 10:28).
- C. No hope.
1. Those who have never obeyed Christ are in this group.
 2. The Gentiles were once without hope (Ephesians 2:12).
 3. Those who have no hope only sorrow at death (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- D. In which of these types are you?