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).
   2. To lose hope is to lose heart.
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.
   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?