

APPLY THE HOPE

Sunday Morning: September 9, 2001

Text: Hebrews 7:19 "For the law made nothing **perfect**, but the bringing in of a **better hope did**; by the which we draw nigh unto God."

We have been studying about the Lord Jesus Christ and his office as our high priest after the order of Melchisedec. We have been reflecting on the hope that is set before us. The hope of the child of God is not salvation. If we have believed on the Lord Jesus as our personal saviour we have been born into the family of God and that is a present possession. It is something that we do not have to hope for. The hope of a child of God is stand approved in the presence of the Lord. The hope of a child of God is that he will be faithful until the end of their race. We all know that we can fail, and some more than others unfortunately.

In Hebrews 7:19 "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God." The law was given to Moses and the children of Israel under Moses' leadership. The law was given to saved people, not to the lost. The law was given that the sinfulness of sin might abound. Romans 5:20 "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might **abound**. . . ." It is by the law that we have a deeper understanding of sin. Romans 3:20 ". . . for by the law *is* the **knowledge** [epignwsiv, knowledge upon knowledge] of **sin**."

By studying the law and the things pertaining to the law we learn that we are not complete. The word *perfect* here is not sinless perfection, but has to do with being complete, it does not finish us. The law gives us basic directions and principles on how to live. Those who obey the law, the commandments of God, are the ones who are just and the scriptures teach us that Galatians 3:11 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is* evident: for, The **just** shall live by **faith**." It takes being just and living by faith to stand approved before the Lord.

MEAT

Hebrews 5:14 "But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of **full age**, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern **both good and evil**."

Studying the book of Hebrews we are studying the meat of the Word. It is the solid food that we need to discern both good and evil. It is like knowing the combination of a lock. What good is it to keep studying the combination of the lock if you never use it. Before the safe can be open the combination must be applied. We can study the meat of the word until we have it all down pat, but if we do not apply the knowledge of the Word to discern good and evil, the meat of the word is not profitable.

LET US: APPLICATION

Hebrews 10:21-25 "And *having an high priest* over the house of God; 22. **Let us** draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23. **Let us** hold fast the **profession** [confession] of **our faith** [hope] without **wavering**; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) 24. And **let us** consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting **one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

When I came up to Minneapolis to candidate to be the pastor of this church. Most of the people here knew that I was interested in the meat of the Word. One of the messages I gave when I came was on the salad of the Word. Here we find a major part of the salad of the Word. In verse 22 it says **let us**. One of the major ingredients of a salad is lettuce. It says let us draw near. God

the Father has given us our high priest, Jesus Christ, so that we can draw near to the Father. If we never draw near what does it profit us to have a high priest. So we need to take the knowledge that we have been invited to draw near and do it.

When we draw near we need to do it with a true, or sincere heart in full assurance of faith. When I think of a sincere heart, I ask myself why am I drawing near? I believe we do draw near to communicate with our high priest. What will our communication be about? I think of John 16:24 "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your **joy may be full.**" Is this full joy something that we experience? Some believe that it is. When I think of full joy I am thinking about hearing well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord. Also in 1 Peter 1:8-9 ". . . rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9. Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of *your* souls." A sincere heart communicates with the Lord about entering into the kingdom rest.

This drawing nigh is on the bases of faith. Faith implies that we are not drawing near so that we can experience him. When we draw near we will not feel anything. You don't smell anything, neither can you touch him. There are times that I do since his presence but I am not coming to experience that. I am coming to my high priest for cleansing, for grace, for wisdom and leadership, and to cast all my care upon him. It is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ that our hearts can be cleansed from an evil conscience.

Verse 21 speaks of having our bodies washed with pure water, I associate this with repentance from a sinful lifestyle. We have a reference to being washed in 1 Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." These had been washed from the sins that would disqualify them from having an inheritance in the Kingdom of God which in the context of Hebrews has to do with entering into the land flowing with milk and honey. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

An other reference to being washed is in John 13:8 ". . . Jesus answered him, If I **wash** thee not, thou hast no **part with me.**" The phrase *part with me* is a reference, I believe, of ruling with him in his coming kingdom.

We have another leaf of lettuce in Hebrews 10:23 "**Let us hold fast the profession** [confession] of *our faith* [hope] without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)" To hold fast our hope without wavering is to confess it. To confess it is to talk about it. We find this in Hebrews 11:13-14 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but **having seen** them afar off, and were **persuaded** of *them*, and **embraced** *them*, and **confessed** that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14. For they that **say such things declare** plainly that they seek a country." which is a heavenly country according to Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." We know that he is faithful that promised, so we can hold fast to our hope without wavering.

We have another leaf of lettuce in Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Most of the time we are able to provoke one another, not to love and good works, but to anger. It takes consideration and observation of one another to be able to provoke each other to love and good works. I want to provoke you to faithfulness. I want to provoke you to good works. Why do I want to provoke you to good works? Good works produce

rewards and rewards provide us with the inheritance we desire in His coming kingdom. I want to consider you and I want you to consider me to provoke me to love and good works. 1 John 3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should **love** one another." and 1 John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the **love** of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren."

The salad of the Word comes together in Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The gathering to gather will help us to *draw near*, verse 22. It will help us to *sprinkle our hearts* and clean up our lives. Gathering together will help us to hold fast with out wavering, and to provoke one another to love for each other and good works toward each other in times of need.

The later part of verse 25 expresses the expediency of this body life in the church to encourage each other as we see the day of the Lord approaching. It is getting more difficult to live for the Lord with the "church" compromising the authenticity and authority of the Word of God. When the Word of God looses it's authority, then there is no fear of the Lord. When there is no fear of the Lord then there is no obedience. When God's people become disobedient there is no hope of glory. It takes obedience and faith to enter into the glory and coming kingdom of our Lord.

LET IT PROFIT US

Hebrews 4:1-2 "Let **us** therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2. For unto *us* was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*."

This leaf of lettuce is dealing with the rest promised to the nation of Israel which is in type the coming kingdom of our Lord. This rest is associated with the land flowing with milk and honey. This rest will be during the coming kingdom of the heavens. It is not a rest from works but a rest from the forces of evil that constantly discouraging us from doing the will of the Father.

This rest is a rest that saved people can miss, because Mosses and Aaron both missed entering into the land flowing with milk and honey. All the adults that were 20 and older who were in 1 Corinthians 10:2-3 "And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3. And did all eat the same spiritual meat;" were not allowed to enter into the land flowing with milk and honey but Joshua and Caleb.

When you hear the Word of God taught, does it profit you? When the children of Israel heard the good news about the land, did it profit them? No! There hearts were hard and their necks were stiff. They resisted the good news with their own personal needs and desires of the old way of life in Egypt. The gospel of the rest in the land flowing with milk and honey was preached unto them but the message was not blended with faith. Faith was not evident because they did not put substance to the promise, neither did they demonstrate evidence that they believed what God promise he would deliver. We can know that the Word of God is profitable when we put substance to the promise to the point that the evidence of that substance is demonstrated in our life style.

NOT AS THE FATHERS

Psalms 78:1-8 "Give ear, O my people, *to my law*: incline your ears to the **words of my mouth**. 2. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: 3. Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. 4. We will not hide *them* from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength,

and his wonderful works that he hath done. 5. For he established a **testimony** in **Jacob**, and appointed a **law** in **Israel**, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: 6. That the generation to come might know *them*, even the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children: 7. **That they might set their hope in God**, and not forget the **works of God**, but keep his commandments: 8. And might not be as their fathers, a **stubborn** and **rebellious** generation; a generation *that set not their heart aright*, and whose spirit was **not stedfast with God.**"

I read these verses to set verse 8 in context. The fathers that came out of Egypt forgot the works of the Lord. They were stubborn and rebellious they set not their hearts aright, and they were not stedfast with God. We need a stedfast spirit. We need to be stable in our walk with the Lord. This comes from the teaching of God's Word. Why would you want to be anywhere else than where the Word of God is taught. It is when the Word of God is not taught the children go astray. David is tell us that we should not do as our father's did, but teach our children so they will not make the same mistakes that the father's made while they were in the wilderness. By teaching our children we instill in them the hope of a better inheritance. By teaching them we affirm our confidence in the hope of a better inheritance which helps us to be stedfast with God.

HOPE OF INHERITANCE

Psalms 16:5-11 "The LORD *is* the **portion** of **mine inheritance** and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. 6. The **lines** (*of my inheritance*) are fallen unto me in pleasant *places*; yea, I have a goodly **heritage**. 7. I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. 8. **I have set the LORD always before me:** because *he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved*. 9. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in **hope**. 10. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore."

David is reflecting on the portion of his inheritance. By reflecting on his inheritance is *flesh will rest in hope*. The word *portion* has to do with inheritance. Nine and one half tribes were given each a portion in the land flowing with milk and honey. These portions of their inheritance was made by a line, or measuring device. The Lord has measured our future inheritance as far as the coming kingdom of the heavens. David said those places that the Lord has portioned out are pleasant places. When we think of these future blessings it should bolster our hope. It should encourage us to do what David did when he set the Lord always before him. We need to be reminded all the time that the Lord is at our right hand. With the Lord at my right hand I can have stability, and strength. If we have the blessings of the hope before us we will not be sowing to the flesh which will reap corruption, but to the things of the spirit which will cause us to reap age-lasting life which is the hope of a believing child of God.

HOPE FOR MY PORTION

Lamentations 3:21-26 "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I **hope**. 22. *It is* of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23. *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness. 24. The LORD *is* my **portion**, saith my soul; therefore will I **hope** in him. 25. The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that seeketh* him. 26. *It is* good that a *man* should both **hope** and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."

This passage also affirms the hope of our inheritance. When we recall to mind that the Lord is a

faithful, merciful and compassionate God we will have hope. His mercies and compassions fail not but are refreshed every morning because he is faithful. To be able to recall to mind would require us to memorize scripture if you do not have a copy of the Word of God in hand. It takes time to flip through pages but when you hide the Word of God in your heart you can move quickly from one verse to another. When scripture is memorized the Holy Spirit is able to call to mind those verses He wants to use. Another place that memorized scripture works well is in the dark, when you are awake and the lights are not on.

This passage in Lamentations is one of my memory verses. I want to encourage my soul to wait on the Lord and seek him. I want to hope and quietly wait for His deliverance from my difficulty. The word salvation in this verse is not referring to salvation that puts us into the family of the Lord but the deliverance and rest we have from our enemies.

It is passages like this one that gives us the counsel we need when we have a tendency to be impatient with the Lord. When we become impatient with him, we run ahead of him and lose sight of the truths that he is our portion and there my hope.

SCARLET HOPE

Joshua 2:18 "Behold, when we come into the **land**, thou shalt bind this **line** [hope] of **scarlet** thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee."

This passage in Joshua is talking about Rahab the harlot. Rahab lived in Jericho, not a very nice city, one that the Lord was going to take, because it was in the land and standing in the way of His plans and purposes for His people.

Rahab hid the spies and helped them escape. She let them down with a rope of hope that was scarlet. The word *line* in the Hebrew is also translated *hope*.

ACCORDING TO THE WORD

Joshua 2:21 "And she said, **According unto your words**, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the **scarlet line** [hope] in the window."

What did that scarlet line do for her? It reminded her of the hope of deliverance she and her family could have by following the instructions of the spies. This line reminded her of the promise given to her of safety for her family. This line was a rope of hope. Did she have an inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey? Yes, she sure did. She was a great grandmother of David and was in the lineage of Jesus Christ. She had hope that she and her family would be spared from the ruin that was coming for the city of Jericho.

THE LORD TAKETH PLEASURE

Psalms 147:11 "The LORD taketh pleasure in them **that fear** him, in those **that hope** in his mercy."

We do not have to be afraid of God, but we need to respect him enough to behave and obey Him. If we will fear him and hope in his mercy, he will take pleasure in us. Fear and hope are fruits that cheer the heart of God.

HOPE IN HIS MERCY

Psalms 33:18-22 "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that **hope** in his mercy; 19. To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. 20. Our soul **waiteth** for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. 21. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have **trusted** in his holy name. 22. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we **hope** in thee."

Verses 18-22 are the verses that Jean and I adopted as our life's verses. We had them read at our wedding. Verse 22 contains the word *hope*. It is a prayer where we ask the Lord to let his mercy be upon us according to our hope in him. The psalmist reveals that the Lord is watching those who fear him and those who hope in his mercy. There are blessing that can be expected from the Lord and they are deliverance from death, sustenance in famine, our helper and shield. If we pray this prayer and expect him to answer this prayer, we had better hope in the Lord or he will not have mercy upon us.

I am convincing my soul to wait upon the Lord believing he will do what he has promised. I do not have to be afraid of depression or recession, my God is all powerful. He knows how to set a table in the wilderness for 1.5 million to 5 million people, don't you think the Lord can set a table for two. I know he can set a table for you as well.

HOPE WHEN THERE IS NO HOPE

Psalms 42:1-5 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so **panteth my soul after thee, O God.** 2. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? 3. My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where *is* thy God? 4. When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. 5. **Why art thou cast down, O my soul?** and **why art thou disquieted in me?** **hope** thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for the help of his countenance.*"

There are time we do feel cast down. We need to begin to commune with ourselves and ask the question "*Why art thou cast down?*" Again, we need to ask our selves ?*Why art thou disquieted in me?*" Because of the hope we have in God we should be praising and rejoicing in him. We need to join in with the multitude that are going to the house of our God where we can be built up in the Lord. This verse is tell us that we need to have hope when there seems to be no hope. When our thirst for God is not assuaged and others are trying to discourage us, we should be saying to ourselves that there is no reason to trust our feelings.

HOPE BRINGS CONFIDENCE

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "**Blessed** is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose **hope** the LORD is. 8. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that spreadeth out her roots by the river*, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and **shall not be careful in the year of drought**, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

There are times when it is going to be dry and hot. The question is have we prepared for those times by learning to trust him when the times are good? If we hope and trust in the Lord we are going to be blessed. Our roots are so deep in the waters of trust and hope that we are not going to be concerned when the lean times come. Our lifestyle will not be disrupted but the lean times but we will be able to continue to produce fruit. We will not be anxious in the year of drought, we will be calm and there will be peace in our hearts because we are blessed.

It is hard to hope in a God that you can't trust. Believe me we can trust the Lord.

A HOPE AND FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:11-13 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, **to give you an expected [hope] end [a future].** 12. Then shall ye **call upon me**, and ye shall go and **pray unto me**, and I will hearken unto you. 13. And **ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**"

This verse tells us that the Lord's thoughts toward us are thoughts of peace. The word *expected*

is the same word translated *line* in Joshua 2:18 and 21. The Lord has given us an *hope* and a *future*. That hope and future for the nation of Israel, in the days of Jeremiah, was to be brought into their inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey.

The Lord has given us a hope in the future of entering into our heavenly inheritance. That hope will encourage us to call upon the Lord, to pray unto the Lord with expectation. He said he would hearken unto us when we seek him and search for him with all of our hearts. Those are the thoughts that the Lord has toward us and in Isaiah 14:24 "The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:" What a comfort and peace we should have with these promises from the Lord.

MY HOPE IS IN HIM

Psalms 62:5-8 "My soul, **wait** thou **only upon God**; for my **expectation** [**hope**] is from him. 6. He **only** is my **rock** and my **salvation**: *he is my defence*; I shall **not be moved**. 7. In God *is my salvation* and my glory: the rock of my **strength**, *and my refuge*, *is in God*. 8. **Trust in him** at all times; ye people, **pour out your heart** before him: God *is a refuge* for us. Selah."

The psalmist is encouraging himself in the Lord. He is telling his soul to wait only upon God. This waiting upon God is because he has given us hope. He has been an unmoveable rock and deliverer. He has been my defender, there is no need to change my expectation or hope now. The psalmist is telling himself to "*Trust in him at all times.*" His expectation and confidence in the Lord causes him to encourage the people to do the same thing. Because God is our salvation, defence, strength and refuge, we can boldly pour out our hearts before him and he will understand and continue to be our refuge in the day of trouble. Nahum 1:7 "The LORD *is good*, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."

We have the meat of the Word on our plate so that we can know the difference between the good and the evil. May we take a goodly portion of the *Let_us* in application of this solid food so that we can enter into the blessing of his coming kingdom and glory.