

HOPE TO THE END

Sunday Morning: September 2, 2001

Text: Read: Hebrews 6:11-20

"And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of **hope** unto the end: 12. That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, 14. Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. 15. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife. 17. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: 18. That by two immutable things, in which *it* was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the **hope** set before us: 19. Which **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20. Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

I want us to reflect on the hope of the believer. If we do not have a hope for the age to come we can become very unstable in our walk with the Lord. Part of the hope has to do with the consequences of departing from the faith. Going our own way. Taking our own counsel. Therefore we find over and over again through out the New Testament an emphasis on the hope that we have been given.

Hope is for those who are saved. Salvation is an event that happened in the past, but the hope is an ever present anchor in the life of a believer. Salvation is wonderful, but God has given us good things that are coming and our obtaining of those good things that are coming is based upon the intensity of our hope of those good things to come.

DILIGENCE IN HOPE

Hebrews 6:11 "And **we desire** that every one of you do show the **same diligence** (labor, 4:11) to the full assurance **of hope unto the end:**"

The word *diligence* comes from the same word that is translated labor in Hebrews 4:11 "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, . . ." We need to have diligence when it comes to the hope. We need to be fervent in spirit in this regard.

HOLD FAST HOPE

Hebrews 3:6 "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we **hold fast** the **confidence** and the **rejoicing** of the **hope firm unto the end.**"

The hope is not something that we read about and make a mental note, but it something that we are to maintain in our daily walk with the Lord. The way you maintain the hope is that you think about the hope.

THE PROMISE OF REST

Hebrews 4:1 "Let us therefore fear, lest, a [the] **promise** being left *us* of **entering into his rest**, any of you should seem to **come short** of it."

The hope and the promise go together. When the Lord made promise to Abraham and to his seed, he made a promise to you and to me. That promise has to do with entering into the rest that God has for his people. We have been studying the types in the Old Testament pertaining to that rest. The rest in the Old Testament that is referred to in Hebrews chapters three and four have to do with the Land flowing with milk and honey. How do I related to that as a child of God.

The Land flowing with milk and honey is a preferred inheritance by the child of God. In type is the heavenly inheritance.

Salvation is not a hope. If you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, you are in the family and hope is not a question. Salvation is something that I have now where the rest is future and that may be lost as it was forfeited by the nation of Israel in the wilderness. This loss of the rest is in type our losing the better inheritance in the coming kingdom. We are talking about loss of reward. If rewards can be lost by making shipwreck of the faith then the reward of the inheritance is a hope. If I lose hope I may lose all of the rewards that my faithful service has wrought. The hope is essential if one expects to receive rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.

The nation of Israel that left Egypt lost hope as they crossed the wilderness, but Joshua and Caleb maintained their hope. The nation of Israel departed from the faith after three days into the wilderness. The first and last act of faith for the adults who left Egypt was the Red Sea. The children of the parents who died in the wilderness started living by faith when they defeated the city of Jericho. The sequence was: Red Sea, faith; Wilderness, no faith; Jericho, faith. We need to keep the hope alive in our hearts.

ENTER THE PROMISE

Hebrews 4:11 "Let us **labour** [be diligent] therefore to enter into that **rest** [the promise], lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

We are to give diligence to enter into the rest offered by the Lord. That rest, in type, is the promise. Promise with the definite article before it. The rest is the millennial kingdom and the promise pertains to the millennial kingdom as well. We find the promise in Hebrews 6:13-15.

PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

Hebrews 6:13-15 "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, *14.* Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. *15.* And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

When was the promise made to Abraham? The promise started in Genesis 15, but further defined in Genesis 22. A long time after Abraham was saved, so to speak. Isaac was a young man when the Genesis 22 experience took place. This was after Melchisedec said that his seed would be as the stars of heaven and the sand of the sea shores.

THE PROMISES

Genesis 22:17 "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed **as** the **stars** [heavenly seed] of the heaven, and **as** the **sand** [earthly seed] which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall **possess** the **gate** of his **enemies**;"

We have a reference made to the promises in Hebrews 6:12 "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." The word *promise* is in the plural. You will find the word *promise* in the plural as well as in the singular.

In Genesis 2:17 there are two promises. The first promise made to Abraham was that he would have an heavenly seed and the second promise was that he would have an earthly seed. Both of these seeds of Abraham will possess the gates of their enemies. What does that mean? It means that the heavenly seed will rule and reign from the heavens in the gates of the heavenly cities now occupied by the fallen angels. Those who have been faithful and are a part of the earthly seed will be ruling in the gates of the earthly cities.

In Hebrews 5:15 we have the word promise in the singular number. In fact it has a definite article before it defining it as a particular or specific promise. There is a verse in 1 John 2 that defines the singular promise with the definite article before it.

THE PROMISE

1 John 2:25 "And this is **the promise** that he hath **promised** us, *even eternal [agelasting millennial] life.*"

Notice that this verse as the word *promise* in the singular number. This word also has the definite article before it, so it is a specific promise. This promise is defined in this verse as agelasting life. I believe that agelasting life is the preferred life in the kingdom of the heavens. This life in the heavenly kingdom is the anti-type of the type of the land flowing with milk and honey. The children of Israel were denied a better life in the land flowing with milk and honey because of their lifestyle of sin and rebellion.

HOPE PROMISED

Titus 1:2 "In **hope of eternal life**, which God, that cannot lie, promised **before the world began**;"

We see from this verse that agelasting life in the kingdom of the heavens is not a sure thing. This preferred life in the kingdom is an hope. This promised life was made before Adam and Eve were in the garden, because God wanted to replace Satan who was the sovereign over this earth before it became without form and void.

It was to the sheep in Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" The king invited the sheep to come and inherit the kingdom that was prepared for them *from the foundation of the world.*

The word hope is to be associated with agelasting life and the reason that hope is associated with agelasting life is because it can be lost. Many believe that *eternal life* means salvation. They know that you can't lose your salvation, so they change the meaning of the word *hope* to mean a *sure thing.*

The phrase *God, that cannot lie* is telling us that the hope of this agelasting life is set and can not change. God has defined the requirement to enter into this millennial life and he can not change them.

THE PROMISE NOT DEBATABLE

Hebrews 6:16-17 "For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife (no debate). 17. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the **immutability** (not changeable) of his **counsel** [purpose and will], confirmed *it* by an **oath**:"

When you take an oath like on a Bible, that is to end all strife about whether you are telling truth or not. In verse 17 we have the word immutability which simply means *unchangeable*. The word *counsel* has to do with his plans and purposes to the heirs of the promise. Numbers 23:19 "God **is not a man**, that he should **lie**; neither the son of man, that he should **repent** (change his mind): **hath he** said, and shall he not **do it**? or hath he **spoken**, and shall he not **make it good**?" The hope of entering into the kingdom rest of God is based upon a solid foundation. We do not have to hope that God is not going to change his mind in this matter of the promise. Knowing that the kingdom is not a sure thing and our entrance into that kingdom is going to be according to our faithfulness to the Lord. The level of our faithfulness will be based upon the hope of entering into that kingdom rest. Our hope will motivate us to conform to what is required to enter into the kingdom rest.

CAN NOT BE MOVED

Hebrews 12:28 "Wherefore we receiving a **kingdom** which **cannot be moved**, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"

The requirements to enter into the kingdom of the heavens have been settled. The Lord is not going to change those requirements. One of the essential requirement is to *have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably.*

LAY HOLD ON THE HOPE, THE PROMISE

Hebrews 6:18-19 "That by two immutable things, in which *it was impossible for God to lie*, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to **lay hold upon the hope** set before us: 19. Which **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;"

I want to emphasize the *laying hold upon the hope*. Where has the Lord placed the hope of entering into the kingdom rest? Before us. The kingdom rest is the carrot so to speak that is set before us so that we know which way we need to go. The messages on Sunday morning is the presenting of the carrot of the entrance into the kingdom to stir us up *to lay hold on the hope*.

Trying to apply the hope to salvation is error. You do not *lay hold* on salvation. You believe on the Lord Jesus to be saved according to Acts 16:31. We are to lay hold on the truth concerning entering into the age-lasting life of glory in the coming kingdom of our Lord.

This hope is also an anchor of our souls. The soul of a man is where we make decisions. When I make a decision about what I am or am not going to do, I weight those decisions against the consequences they will produce as far as entrance into the millennial kingdom rest. I am not going to do something that will disqualify me from entering into that coming kingdom. It may cost me a lot, but I am not going to make a decision, by the knowledge of God's Word and His grace, that will disqualify me from ruling and reigning with Christ. This is the reason that I need the hope of the kingdom constantly before me. I need to be reminded that I must lay hold on that hope. With that hope in my heart and on my mind it will be an anchor that will keep me from being shipwreck on the rocks of unbelief and disobedience. It is every wind of doctrine that can cause us to sink on the rocks of error. The hope is the anchor that provides stability in our lives. The anchor chain runs up into within the veil in the heavenly tabernacle where our high priest is waiting to intercede for us when Satan's wind of doctrine blows contrary to the truth of the Word of God.

FLEE, FOLLOW, FIGHT, LAY HOLD

1 Timothy 6:11-12 "But thou, **O man of God, flee** (love of money) these things; and **follow** after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12. **Fight** the good fight of faith, **lay hold** on **eternal life**, whereunto thou art also **called**, and hast professed a good **profession** before many witnesses."

Paul is giving Timothy counsel that confirms the need to *lay hold on eternal life*. Notice, it is the *man of God* that is to lay hold on age-lasting life. Before we can *lay hold* the man of God must do some fleeing. The phrase *these things* refer to discontentment and riches which are found in the preceding verses. When we become discontent with what we have, the love of money is jacked up a notch. Money will supply those things we want that God will not give us. If we had them we would not be godly. So, Paul's counsel to Timothy is to flee, run from this distraction.

If you want a lot of money, just prepare yourself to have many sorrows.

I just read in the paper this week about a young single lady that won the lottery and all the trouble that she had to endure. She can't go to town without some pestering her about her riches. She gets phone calls and letter asking her for money. My counsel to myself and to all of us is: if we see a lottery ticket on the sidewalk, run the other way. It may be a winning ticket.

This word *flee* is the same word used when Paul fled the city that had stoned him. He was afraid for his life. We are to have the same feelings about riches and discontentment.

After we flee the distractions of riches we are to follow or pursue righteousness, godliness (with contentment), faith, love, patience or perseverance, meekness and fight to please God by faith. When we are doing these things we are laying hold on to the rest, the promise of an everlasting kingdom life.

HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us **hold fast** the profession of *our faith* [hope] **without wavering**; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)"

This verse tells us that God is not going to waver, so I had better not waver. God is faithful to the promise that he made with an oath and he is not going to change and we need to hold fast to the hope of the kingdom without wavering.

BETTER HOPE

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."

Before the New Testament, the hope of the saved was that of an earthly inheritance. That hope of an earthly inheritance did not bring an individual to a place of maturity or perfection. By the resurrection of Jesus Christ into the heavenlies brought in a better hope. His blood on the mercy seat makes it possible for all of us to enter into within the veil that only the priest could do. We have a better hope not and that hope is a hope of an heavenly inheritance.

HOPE OF GLORY

Romans 5:1-5 "Therefore being justified by **faith** (not departed from), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and **rejoice in hope of the glory** of God. 3. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation** worketh **patience**; 4. And patience, **experience** [approval]; and experience, **hope**: 5. And **hope** maketh **not ashamed**."

Our hope is based upon **the promise** of an everlasting kingdom life. This passage in Romans 5 gives us additional light that hope is to be associated with *the glory of God*.

This *justification* referred to in this verse is based upon faith that is not abandoned. The word *by* is translated from the Greek word *ek* which could be translated *out of* or *out from* and in this case it is faith that is not abandoned. This *justification* is not based upon a one time event. This *justification* is based upon *faith* that is completed or finished or continued in until the end of your life. It takes justification by faith to rule and reign in the coming kingdom and if we depart from the faith we will not be justified. If we have the hope of the glory of God we will not depart from the faith.

The hope of a Christian is the glory of God. What does the glory mean for a Christian, honor. We need to rejoice in the hope of glory so that in time of tribulation and enduring we will be approved because we will not waver.

HOPE CHANGES LIFESTYLE

1 John 3:3 "And every man that hath this **hope** in him **purifieth himself**, even as he is pure."

He that hath the hope of glory will live a clean and purified life. Not a sinless life but a walk with the Lord in His Word confessing our sins and departing from the lifestyle of sin.

MIGHT HAVE HOPE

Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that **we** (Paul, called, beloved, saints) through **patience** [perseverance] and **comfort** [exhortation] of the scriptures **might have hope.**"

The word *we* in this passage include Paul, so he is including himself. The word *we* also includes those defined in Romans 1:7 "To all that be in Rome, **beloved** of God, **called to be saints**:. . ." The word *beloved, called, and saints* are all adjective describing the ones to whom Paul is writing. This verse reminds us that it is through the written scriptures that we learn to have hope. The words *patience* and *comfort* indicate that it takes perseverance and it takes encouragement to maintain our hope.

PRAYER FOR HOPE

Romans 15:13 "Now the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in **hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Paul prayed for the ones being in Rome who are the beloved, called, and saints that they might abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the God of hope that fills us with joy and peace in believing in the benefits of continuing to abound in hope.

IF YOU CONTINUE IN HOPE

Colossians 1:22-23 "In the body of his flesh through death [thanatos], to present you **holy** and **unblameable** and **unreproveable** in his sight: 23. **If ye continue** in the **faith** grounded and settled, and **be not moved away from the hope** of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature (saints, v.26) which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

These verses explain that if we do not move away from the hope continuing in the faith we will be found unblameable and unreproveable in the sight of God. Faith give substance to hope. Faith brings forth the evidence of being grounded and settled by not moving away from the hope of the glory of God.

GENTILES, NO HOPE

Ephesians 2:12 "That at that time ye were **without** Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** from the covenants of **promise**, having no **hope**, and without God in the world:"

This verse reminds us that Gentiles could not qualify to rule and reign from the heavens. They could be saved. Gentile have always been able to be saved, but to rule and reign from the heavens, was only offered to the nation of Israel. Because they would not produce the fruits required to enter into the kingdom of the heavens, they were disqualified to rule and reign. Ephesians 2:12 give a vivid picture of the hope of saved Gentiles before Matthew 21:43. They had no hope of an heavenly inheritance. That changed at the cross because the writer of the will died which made the new will a valid document.

HOPE OF GLORY

Colossians 1:26-28 "*Even* the mystery which hath been **hid** from ages and from generations, but now is **made manifest** to his **saints**: 27. To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory**: 28. Whom we preach, **warning** every man, and **teaching** every man (his saints v.26) in all wisdom; **that we may present** every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus:"

This verse tells us that it was in God's plan all along to include Gentile believers. God's plan to include Gentiles had been hidden for ages, but was made manifest to the saints. I am so thank-

ful first of all that Christ died for my sins on the cross. I am so thankful that Christ made it possible for me to have a part in the heavenly kingdom that at one time was only offered to Israel. This privilege had been hidden from the Gentiles as well as from the Jews until Paul began to preach this mystery to the Gentiles and God confirmed it by Gentiles responding in accepting this truth for themselves.

This truth is manifest to the saints. In Colossians 1:2 "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ. . ." we see that Paul is writing to the brethren. The words *saints* and *faithful* are adjectives describing the brethren at Colosse. The *every man* of verse 28, I believe, are the saint and faithful brethren addressed in this epistle. Paul wanted to present them complete in Christ Jesus. He wanted to present them, **Colossians 1:22-23** ". . . **holy and unblameable and unreprouvable** in his sight." Again these are the brethren that he is addressing.

BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed **hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

Many apply this to the second coming and it does have something to do with the second coming of the Lord. The blessed hope is the appearing of the glory of the Lord. This is the glory that God the Father gave the Son and will give to us who hold fast the hope unto the end.

INCENTIVE OF HOPE

1 Peter 1:21 "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and **hope** might be in God."

The incentive that God the Father has given us is in the example given in this verse when God gave his Son glory because Jesus Christ was well pleasing to the Father. If we are well pleasing to God the Father he will give us glory as well. This glory has to do with honor in the coming kingdom of the heavens.

JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 6:19-20 "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; **20**. Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

God the Father has provided the means for us to receive that honor and glory in the coming kingdom. The means that he has given us is in the Lord Jesus Christ as our High Priest. Without Him we would not be able to please the Father and our hope would be in vain as well as our preaching and faith. It is through the resurrection of Jesus Christ to be our High Priest that we have the means to endure to the end.

LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope** by the **resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the **dead**, **4**. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5**. Who are kept by the power of God through **faith** unto salvation (of the soul, verse 9) ready to be revealed in the last time."

When we come to the knowledge of the truth concerning the coming kingdom and the possibilities of entering to that inheritance we have been begotten again unto a living hope. Our first beginning was when we believed on the Lord Jesus as our personal saviour. The new beginning was when we were enlightened having tasted the good word of God concerning the kingdom age that is coming as well as the heavenly gift of the coming kingdom.

When Jesus Christ was raised from the dead he became our high priest. His office is to help us to receive our inheritance in the heavenly land called the kingdom of the heavens. That inheri-

tance in the heavenly kingdom is the antitype of the land flowing with milk and honey. As long as we do not depart from the faith that inheritance will be incorruptible, and undefiled, and will not fade away but reserved in heaven for us. If we depart from the faith, then the inheritance will a harvest of corruption, fruit that is defiled and fades away. When something fades away, it is something that you see and then it slowly disappears.

The word *salvation* in verse 5 is defined in verse 9.

THE END OF TESTED FAITH

1 Peter 1: 9 "Receiving the **end** of your **faith**, *even* the **salvation** of *your* **souls**."

The salvation of our souls or lives as it can be translated is received if we continue in the faith. It can not be salvation, because I have received that already, but the salvation of the soul is not entered into until you have kept the faith having fought a good fight and finished the work God has given you to do.

May the Lord help us to be acutely aware daily of the hope that is set before us. If we will keep the hope constantly before us we will know the direction that the Lord would have us go and it will be worth what ever it cost us in the end.