

The Importance of Hope

Scripture Text: Hebrews 6:17-20

About the Text:

- 1) The book of Hebrews was written to encourage Christians to remain faithful to Christ.
- 2) Chapter 6 records that some had already fallen away.
- 3) The writer, however, was persuaded of better things regarding his listeners (Hebrews 6:9).
- 4) So he gives them a word of encouragement by reminding to “shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end” (Hebrews 6:11).
- 5) He then reminds us that our hope is anchored in heaven where Christ has entered to sit on the right hand of the throne of God.
- 6) Hope is very important.
- 7) Why do we need hope?

We continue this sermon on hope noting that we need hope because it gives us something...

I. TO TALK ABOUT

1. People love to talk about their plans.
 - 1) Young people talk about their plans for college, home, and jobs.
 - 2) Working people talk about their vacation plans.
 - 3) Older people talk about their retirement plans.
2. It's just natural that Christians would talk about their plans to be in heaven.
 - 1) Jesus spoke of such plans to the disciples. John 14:1-3
 - 2) Paul spoke about his desire to depart and be with Christ (Philippians 1:23).
 - 3) Peter spoke about his hope for the resurrection (1 Peter 1:3, 21).
 - 4) Consider Paul's words of encouragement and hope to the church at Thessalonica who were bereaving their Christian brethren who had departed this life.
 - 5) Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
3. Hope gives us something to talk about, sing about, pray about, and rejoice over.

II. TO WORK TOWARD

1. Hope also motivates us to work.
 - 1) Consider the expectant father who knows the baby is on the way.

- 2) Consider the young person seeking to pay for his school loans or tuition.
- 3) Consider the working man looking forward to his vacation.
- 4) Hope motivates us to work.

2. Hope motivates Christians to work.

- 1) We may have hopes for our future work here.
- 2) When we take a mission trip we elevate our hopes.
- 3) When we plan the work for the congregation, we elevate our hopes.
- 4) Paul often spoke of his future work as well.
- 5) He told the church at Rome - Romans 15:28
- 6) He told Timothy - 1 Timothy 3:14
- 7) 3 John 14

3. Hope for eternal life should motivate us the most.

- 1) Our hope motivates us to serve the Lord. Paul described himself as a servant, Titus 1:1-2
- 2) Our hope motivates us to be sober. 1 Peter 1:13
- 3) Our hope motivates us to live pure and godly lives. 1 John 3:2-3

III. TO HANG ONTO

1. If we have hope, we can get through the most difficult things.

- 1) The proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.
- 2) We can do daily chores that need to be done because of our hope for some future event.
- 3) We can raise our children in the hope that they have a good life.
- 4) We can work through difficult times in marriage, if we have hope for better days ahead.

2. For Christians, hope provides us a way to deal with life's problems.

- 1) Romans 5:3-5
- 2) Paul knew personally about those persecutions. Acts 28:20
3. When we have hope, we can endure almost anything.
4. Story: Wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy.

We conclude this sermon on hope asking...

1. Why do we need hope? We need hope because it gives us something...

1) To Talk About

2) To Work Toward

3) To Hang Onto

2. Invitation

“Hope” is the thing with feathers

That perches in the soul

And sings the tune without the words

And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;

And sore must be the storm

That could abash the little bird

That kept so many warm.

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land

And on the strangest sea,

Yet never, in extremity,

It asked a crumb of me.

Emily Dickenson

Sermon from G. E. Watkins

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