

HOPE

I. Representative Biblical references to "hope"

Matt. 12:21 - "In His name the Gentiles will hope"
Rom. 5:2 - "grace...exult in hope of the glory of God"
Rom. 5:5 - "hope does not disappoint, because love of God poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us"
Rom. 15:13 - "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace...that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"
I Cor. 15:19 - "if we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are to be pitied"
II Cor. 3:12 - "having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech"
Gal. 5:5 - "we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness"
Eph. 1:18 - "you may know what is the hope of His calling"
Col. 1:23 - "continue in the faith...not moved away from the hope of the gospel"
Col. 1:27 - "Christ in you, the hope of glory"
I Tim. 1:1 - "Christ Jesus who is our hope"
I Tim. 4:10 - "we have fixed our hope on the living God who is the Savior of all men"
Titus 1:2 - "the hope of eternal life"
Titus 2:13 - "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of Christ"
Heb. 7:19 - "there is a bringing in of a better hope"
I Pet. 1:3 - "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"
I Pet. 1:13 - "fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ"
I Pet. 3:15 - "ready to make a defense ..for the hope that is in you"
I Jn. 3:3 - "every one who has this hope on Him purifies himself"

II. Defining Christian hope

- A. Christian hope is NOT just:
 - 1. wishful thinking, dreaming
 - 2. presumption, "acting as if..."
 - 3. yearning, longing for
 - 4. calculated wager, "betting on it"
 - 5. positive thinking
 - 6. anticipation, "waiting game"
 - 7. believing a promise
 - 8. abeyance of fulfillment
 - 9. psychological phenomenon
- B. Christian hope is:
 - 1. confident expectation
 - a. Greek verb *elpizo* - "to expect"
 - b. Greek noun *elpis* - "expectation"
 - 2. ontologically and personally based
 - a. Not hope in some "thing", event, blessing, promise, but in SomeOne!
 - b. Person of Jesus Christ - I Tim. 1:1
 - c. "Finished work" of Jesus Christ - Jn. 19:30
 - d. Living Lord Jesus - I Tim. 4:10
 - e. Spiritual reality of Christ
 - f. Already and not yet

III. Short history of hope in mankind.

- A. Adam expected God to make full provision for him.
- B. After fall in sin
 - 1. No hope - Eph. 2:12; I Thess. 4:13
- C. Promise of salvation - Gen. 3:15
- D. Jewish hope
 - 1. Messianic deliverance
 - 2. Anticipatory hope
 - 3. Abeyance of fulfillment
 - 4. Futuristic
- E. Christian hope in Jesus Christ
 - 1. Better hope - Heb. 7:19
 - 2. Actualizing hope

IV. Behavioral Expression of Christian hope - individually

- A. Expectation of Christ's life being lived out in our behavior - Col. 1:27
 - 1. Grace - Rom. 5:2; I Pet. 1:13
 - 2. Holy Spirit - Rom. 5:5; 15:13
 - 3. Fruit of Spirit - Gal. 5:22,23
- B. Present expectation
 - 1. Not just futuristic anticipation of going to heaven
 - 2. Much of evangelical theology: Past is forgiven; Future is assured; Present is the "pits"
 - 3. Christians are to presently expect the life of Christ to function in their behavior.

V. Social implications of Christian hope - interactively

- A. NOT social, cultural, political, ecclesiastical
 - 1. pessimism, despair, defeatism, depression, survivalism, escapism, isolationism, retreat, gloom and doom
 - a. "all is going to hell in a hand-basket"
 - b. "why polish brass on sinking ship"
 - c. "doesn't matter who is elected President"
 - 2. false-hope of reconstructionism, activism, utopian society
- B. Church of Jesus Christ
 - 1. Loving community
 - 2. Godly interpersonal relationships
 - 3. Holy nation - I Pet. 2:9
- C. In society
 - 1. Impact on world - I Pet. 3:15
 - 2. Victors, overcomers - Rom. 8:39