



Second Half Living Presentations

The Basis of our Hope 2

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Sharing

1. “The way you live now is completely controlled by what you believe about your future.”(Tim Keller)

Do you think that is true? If so, how would you illustrate that from your own life?

2. Do you agree with Nancy Missler’s assertion that there are two types of hope – temporal and eternal? Has hope in God, both temporal and eternal, become more significant for you as you have grown older?

3. How does hope in God help you to persevere and to seek to finish well?

4. What encourages you about the metaphor of hope as “an anchor for the soul” (Hebrews 6:19)?

5. How does the eternal perspective that hope gives, help you in dealing with the frustrations and suffering of life now?

6. What helps you personally to keep on living in hope?

7. How can we encourage one another to continue well in following Christ?

8. Spend some time reading and meditating on the following passages: Revelation 7:9-17, 21:1-4 and 22:1-5. How do these passages encourage your hope of glory?

Contentment Summary Notes

Hope: confidently stepping out on God's promises and being assured of His trustworthiness, even though we can't see how His promises will be fulfilled or when they will be answered. Nancy Missler 'Hope Against Hope'

Eternal hope: God's promises for the future;

Temporal hope: God's promises for the day to day.

We can take God's promises and translate them the way we want to understand them.

Job: He loses his wealth, his family and his health. His response...

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.' 1:21

"Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?'. 2:10

A profound understanding of the sovereignty of God.

But Job describes himself in turmoil. He has no peace, no quietness and no rest. 3:26

Job expresses hope:

"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead or engraved in rock for ever! I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" 19:23-27

Hope is unseen and of the future.

"For in this hope you were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not have we wait for it patiently." Romans 8:24-25

Hope is described in several ways in the New Testament.

A good hope

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts” 2
Thessalonians 2:16

Good hope encourages our hearts and strengthens us for action.

A blessed hope

“while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearance of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” Titus 2:13

Hope here is linked to Christ’s appearing. Hope allows us to say no to actions that are contrary to God’s way and yes to being the person he wants us to be.

Hope held out in the gospel

“if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.” Colossians 1:23

The encouragement of this hope is that God has not given up on us. We are provided with a helmet described as the hope of salvation that can protect the mind and keep us from despair.

A living hope

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3,”

This living hope is linked to the mercy of God and is used of the status or position we have as followers of Christ through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Hope as adopted children

“This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what’s coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we’re certainly going to go through the good times with him!” Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of Romans 8:15-17 in The Message

In the Roman world the adopted son was granted full legal status in the family alongside other natural sons. He could be nominated by the father as legal heir over the claims of the natural sons. We are given full status in God’s family as His children.

An eternal hope

“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied”. 1
Corinthians 15:19

The reality of the resurrection of Christ has pushed back the horizons of our lives to the limits of eternity.

Eternal hope connects with temporal hope

Jesus is our Anchorius High Priest.

“God did this so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie (i.e. His promise and His oath), we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us has entered on our behalf.” Hebrews 6:18-20

“We who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged”. 6:18 Hope is offered to us by an unchanging faithful God and we need to hold onto it!

Bibliography and Reading List

The following books reference the quotes used in the presentation as well as others you may find helpful to read.

The Person of Christ, Brash Bonsall, H., 1967 pages 149-151 The Anchorius High Priest

Hope, Greg Laurie, 2012, Kerygma Publishing

Hope against Hope, Nancy Missler, 2014, The Kings Highway Ministries

Inspired by Hope, Steve McClure, 2015, SotonNavs

Invest Your Suffering, Paul Mallard, 2013, Inter Varsity Press

New Bible Dictionary, 3rd Edition, 2004, Inter varsity Press

Teaching the Christian Hope, David Jackman, 2004, Proclamation Trust Media

The Hope of Glory, T.W.Hunt and Melana Hunt Monroe, 2013, NavPress

Trusting God, Jerry Bridges, 2008, NavPress

Walking with God through Pain and Suffering, Timothy Keller, 2015, Hodder and Stoughton