

THE POWER OF HOPE

Introduction

- 1) **HOPE** is an immensely powerful factor in the life of a faithful Christian
- 2) **1 Peter 3:15** – The Christian’s hope is...
 - a) Founded in Christ – assured in faith (1 Tim. 1:1; Col. 1:27; Heb. 11:1; Psa. 119:49-50)
 - b) Not yet seen – eagerly waited for (Rom. 8:24-25; Phil. 3:20)
 - c) Looking for Jesus’ coming – the resurrection from the dead (Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:20-23)
 - d) Eternal life – a permanent inheritance (Titus 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:3-4; Col. 1:5)
 - e) Dwelling with God – uninterrupted joy (Rev. 21:1-4; 22:3-5; Matt. 25:21)
- 3) How can this “one hope of your calling” (Eph. 4:4) be a powerful force in your life and mine?

I) **HOPE ENCOURAGES US TO TEACH THE TRUTH** (1 Peter 3:15)

- A) Study and learn so we can teach the doctrine of Christ that saves (1 Tim. 4:15-16)
- B) Give Bible instruction to those who oppose the truth and are lost (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

II) **HOPE ENCOURAGES US TO BE BOLD** (2 Corinthians 3:12)

- A) Boldness to speak of the New Covenant that promises life and glory (2 Cor. 3:6-14)
- B) Boldness to speak and defend the gospel of hope (Eph. 6:19; 1:18)

III) **HOPE ENCOURAGES US TO LIVE GODLY LIVES** (Hebrews 6:10-12)

- A) Live with boldness to magnify Christ in our body (Phil. 1:19-20)
- B) To diligently continue in the faith (Col. 1:21-23)

IV) **HOPE EQUIPS US TO FIGHT AGAINST THE DEVIL** (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

- A) Hope assures us of the end game [victory] (1 Pet. 1:13 [vv. 6-9 trial of faith])
- B) Hope gives purpose in pursuing righteousness and fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:11-14)

V) **HOPE ENCOURAGES US TO REJOICE IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE** (Romans 12:12)

- A) Because we stand in God’s amazing grace (Rom. 5:1-2)
- B) Our name is written in Heaven and we are the house of God (Lk. 10:20; Heb. 3:6)

VI) **HOPE ENABLES US TO ENDURE SUFFERING AND FACE DEATH WITH CONFIDENCE** (Romans 5:1-5)

- A) Live with the assurance of blessed hope because we have peace with God (Rom. 15:13)
- B) There is no fear of death when hope of eternal life and glory fills our hearts (2 Cor. 4:16-5:1; Phil. 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 2:10-11; 4:6-8)

Conclusion

Christians need not sorrow in life or in death. Why? Because Christ reigns over His glorious kingdom and our **hope** is secure in Him. Whatever may come to us in life or in death, let us determine to stand steadfast in the faith and refuse to move away from the blessed and wondrous hope of the gospel of Christ (Col. 1:23). Someday our hope will be realized in the joyous scenes of heaven. Will you be there? Do you have hope in Christ? Obey Him today!

(partially adapted from a sermon by Joe R. Price)