

The Biblical Concept of Hope

Introduction

- A. A person can live without hope only by repressing his insecurity and finding false security in an illusion. The most popular illusions are false religious beliefs, cultural goals (money, possessions, friends, education) or the view that death is the end of everything.
- B. When the Christian tries to live without genuine hope – the vacuum is quickly flooded with hopelessness and despair.
- C. In contrast to the Christian, the Bible describes the non-Christian as being without genuine hope.

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. Ephesians 2:12

I. The Meaning of the Word "Hope".

And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. Acts 27:20

For we are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope, for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Romans 8:21,25.

Observation: In the Bible the word "hope" is used in regard to the person's immediate or remote future* In contrast to our popular usage of "hope" as doubtful the Bible speaks of hope as certain and sure.

II. The Explanation of the Concept of Hope.

Who (Abraham) against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken (by God), So shall thy seed be. Romans 4:18

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope. And, hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. Romans 5:3-5

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.
I Thessalonians 1:3

Observation: Hope is not primarily a feeling. It is a virtue, a capacity, an enablement, a quality inseparably related to faith. For hope to be experiential it must be "used" as a function. The believer must choose – make a decision – to believe and act on what has been promised. When this is done correctly then hope is recognized in our experience to be "The certainty of faith's expectation.

III. The Basis of Hope.

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
Romans 15:4

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 Spirit. Romans 15:13

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. I Peter 1:21.

Observation: Hope does not find its source or basis in what we want – but in what God has said in His Word. Hope is believing God and putting His Word into action.

IV. The Importance of Hope.

A. Hope is included in virtues of importance, I Cor. 13:13.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three

B. Hope is the express will of God for the believer, 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 Spirit.

Hope is a characteristic of our salvation, I Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

V. The Products of Hope.

A. Hope produces rejoicing, Romans 12:12.

Rejoicing in hope

B. Hope produces joy and peace, Romans 15:13.

Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace

C. Hope produces patience, I Thessalonians 1:3.

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labour of love and patience of hope

D. Hope produces a helmet-like protection, I Thessalonians 5:8

But let us who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

E. Hope produces assurance, Hebrews 6:11.

And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end.

Conclusion: Let us believe God and act on His Word.

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