

The Importance of Hope

Introduction

Scripture Reading: **Mark 5:25-34**

1. There is no mental condition worse than feeling that there is no hope!
 - A. This lady had been ill for twelve years. She heard about Jesus!
 - 1) Jesus could heal! She touched His garments. Immediately she was healed!
 - B. Jesus sensed what had happened. (Who touched my clothes?)
 - 1) The woman confessed that she did it. Jesus declared "Daughter, your faith has made you well."
 - C. Her hope has been fully rewarded. What great power there is in having hope!
2. Hebrews was written to encourage the Jewish brethren to hold fast to Jesus.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope** without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- A. Do not let truth slip away
Hebrews 2:1-4
3. The definition of hope:
 - **"The happy anticipation of good." "Desire with expectation of obtaining what is desired."**

A man approached a little league baseball game one afternoon. He asked a boy in the dugout what the score was. The boy responded, "Eighteen to nothing--we're behind."

- ▶ "Boy," said the spectator, "I'll bet you're discouraged."
- ▶ "Why should I be discouraged?" replied the little boy. "We haven't even gotten up to bat yet!"

Hope is the Main Spring

1. The main spring of all action, energy, and endurance.

A. Peter is a study of a man with great faith.

Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 26:30-35

John 21:3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

1) Later Peter writes these words with assurance:

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

B. This assurance of hope is manifest in our daily life.

1) Family will endure for there is hope for recovery.

2) But, when hope is gone; they often collapse!

Foundations of Hope

1. Let's examine the process by which we are to be strengthened and established.

Romans 5:3-5 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that **tribulation produces perseverance**; and **perseverance, character**; and **character, hope**. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

A. Tribulation

B. Perseverance (patience - KJV)

C. Character (experience, KJV)

D. Hope

- 1) **Hope does not put to shame. God will keep His promises; therefore we have great hope!**

2. Hold our profession without wavering.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

3. The beauty of all this is that God has promised – and God cannot lie.

Titus 1:1-2 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, **in hope of eternal life** which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

How One May Hold Fast That Profession of Faith

1. **Having a positive desire of character – commitment!**
2. **Making constant progress!**
 - A. **One is either hot or cold. Lukewarmness is despised by God.**

Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. **I could wish you were cold or hot.** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

3. **Some specific means of holding fast:**
 - A. **Prayer, confession of sins, pardon, harmony, fellowship, thanksgiving, etc.**
 - B. **Bible study: Instructions, warnings, promises, hope!**
 - C. **The Lord’s Day – a special day dedicated to almighty God:**
 - 1) **Lord’s Supper, public instruction, singing**
 - D. **The Church gives:**
 - 1) **Love, sympathy, admonition, care and concern.**
 - E. **A common purpose:**
 - 1) **Each individual realizing our part in reaching the lost souls of those around us.**
4. **Many have just enough religion to make themselves miserable; not enough to have JOY through HOPE!**

Conclusion

1. **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope – firm to the end!**
2. **Constantly recognize ways of enriching hope!**

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abide faith, **hope**, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- 1) **We need faith to keep building our foundation of dedication in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
 - 2) **We need to possess a constant hope – the longing hope of heaven, looking forward to our eternal home.**
 - 3) **Love will continue from now through eternity.**
3. **Keep working out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).**
 4. **Jesus Christ is the ONLY basis of our hope. Our true Rock of Ages!**

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you 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.**

5. **Keep the faith, continue in hope. Eternity with Christ will come!**
 - A. **My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!**

