



Our Hope In Christ
Gerry Letourneau
November 29, 2020

1. Hope:
 - a. Our common use of the word hope is really more like 'wish'
 - b. The NT usage actually suggests a 'confident expectation'.
 - i. There are reasons for us to have confidence in a certain outcome.
 - ii. Whenever we see the word hope in the Bible we should substitute the words 'confident expectation'
2. We all need hope.
 - a. We can wish for a better future, we can wish that there is something on the other side of the grave, but wishful thinking falls far short of a confident expectation.
 - b. Beginning in Genesis and then throughout the Old Testament God promised that He Himself would rescue mankind, that He would provide for them, deliver them from evil, call them His own children, and ultimately have them live with Him for all eternity.
 - c. Throughout the Old Testament God repeatedly revealed to the people of Israel that He Himself would provide a Savior, His Anointed One, The Hebrew word is The Messiah.
 - d. In Greek the title Christ or Christos which means 'anointed one', is synonymous with Messiah.

Today's Text

3. Text: Simeon in the Temple Lk 2:25-35
 - i. vs25: waiting for the consolation of Israel
 - ii. vs 26: Christ is the consolation spoken of in vs 25
 - iii. vs 30: Salvation is a person
 - iv. vs 32: A light to lighten the Gentiles & the Glory of Israel
4. What Simeon was waiting for, was it wishful thinking or was it hope – a confident expectation?

The Reality of What we Believe

5. We all fall into the trap of somehow separating our spiritual world from the physical or "real" world. We have to constantly remind ourselves that God has promised to watch over and provide for us in our physical world as well as our spiritual lives.

Jesus Was a Historical Figure

Future Promises

11. There are more than 100 Old Testament prophecies, and prophecies from Jesus Himself ,about His Second Coming, the Final Judgment, and the full establishment of His Kingdom here on earth.
 - a. Just as all prophecies of Christ's first coming were fulfilled, so will one day each of these also be fulfilled.

12. These prophecies about His Second Coming and of the world to come include:
 - That Christ will return visibly, where every eye will see Him
 - A great trumpet will sound and at the voice of Christ the dead will be raised
 - There will be a final judgment to determine the eternal destiny of all men
 - Satan and His demons will be condemned
 - There will be a great marriage feast with the Lamb
 - Messiah will be eternal and God will rule over Israel forever

13. Just as God, in His own time, fulfilled the prophecies of Christ's first coming, so will He also fulfill the Second.

The In-between – Church Age

14. We live in the church age, between Christ's first coming and the advent of His second coming.
 - a. At His first coming Jesus ushered in the kingdom of God. But the kingdom is not yet established in its fullness on the earth. This will occur at His Second Coming.

15. In this in-between, this church age, The kingdom of heaven is in conflict with the kingdom of this world; the kingdom ruled by Satan.
 - a. Chris spoke of this last week from Eph. 6. That, "our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms".

16. And it's here that we live. As we learn and struggle with living as Kingdom Citizens in the midst of a corrupt and evil world. But we do so with the hope that in Christ we are victorious.

Hope Changes How We Think and Live

17. The prophecies of Jesus and his fulfillment of them during His lifetime are just one of the many-evidences that we have for not only the existence of God but also the hope we have in his promises to watch over and provide for us and assure us eternal life with him.

18. We are not just victims of nature and the uncertainty of the future. But the God who created all that is and controls all things has himself rescued us.

19. As we saw in recent study in Ephesians, Gods ultimate purpose is that all things would be united in Christ. That he would send his Son into the world to die on the cross to satisfy the divine justice of God for us.

20. It's only when Christ is our hope, our confident expectation, that the words of Paul in Romans 8 really make sense to us

Read Rom 8:38-39

21. The hope we have in Christ extends beyond this world.

Read John 14:1-3

22. Bible has a common thread that runs throughout: That God would provide a Savior for mankind.

23. This is the message of the Bible!

That all things, will be reconciled to God in the Savior, the promised Messiah - Jesus Christ.

24. Our Hope – Our confident expectation - is in Jesus Christ.