

HOPE DETERMINES ACTION AND ATTITUDE

1 Timothy 4:9,10

Introduction:

- Hope m_____ one to go on in spite of the odds. But one can have false hope or false hopelessness.
- In order for hope to be valid it must have a real object that gives m_____ to our efforts and assurance to our m_____.
 1. 1 Tim 4:10 – Paul writes Timothy that their labor is not in vain because their hope is in the l_____ God.
 2. Rom 5:5 – hope in God does not d_____ believers because God has given us the Holy Spirit who assures us.
- Hope determines our actions and attitudes. Here are two questions to consider to make sure our hope is valid.

At what do you labor? (9,10a)

- Labor refers not to leisurely work, but to h_____ work.
 1. Working in the Garden of Eden - Originally Adam's work of tending the garden was easy (Gen 2:15). But when he sinned, God cursed the ground, making work d_____ (Gen 3:17-19).
 2. What did Paul state that they labored and strived for (v. 10)?
 - a. For t_____ - refers to the trustworthy s_____ that is worthy of being fully accepted (v. 9)
 - b. The trustworthy statement is given in verse 8 – *godliness holds promise for this life and for the life to come.*
 - c. Therefore, Paul is referring to g_____ (see verse 7).
 - d. Paul and Timothy labored and strived for the purpose of godliness because their hope was in the living God.
- Hope in the living God motivates us to labor in living godly.
 1. The living God
 - a. A term seen 15 times in the O.T. and 13 in the N.T.
 - b. This is in contrast to cultures whose gods were made up to explain legendary characters and n_____ phenomena.
 - c. The living God r_____ Himself
 - 1) Through p_____
 - a) The population did not like what they had to say and so k_____ many of them)
 - b) God p_____ their words, which was His word.
 - 2) Through Jesus who fulfilled ancient prophecies and d_____ God's word.

- a) The population did not like what He had to say and so c_____ Him.
- b) But Jesus rose from the d_____ even though they tried to keep His body in the grave.

2. Living godly lives (living like God wants).

- a. Living right will give us a better l_____ here on earth (look at the alternative and see what it brings).
- b. Living right will impact eternity as God uses it in His saving plan. He is the Savior of all _____.

● God is the Savior of all men, especially of believers

1. Other scriptures that make a similar statement

- a. Jn 1:29 – John the Baptist called Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the w_____ (this is not a probability but a certainty declared by a prophet).
- b. Jn 12:32 – Jesus stated that through His death on the cross, He would draw all _____ to Himself (this is not a mere wish but a prophetic statement).

2. What is meant by the word **all** in the above contexts.

- a. It DOES NOT mean every person (some use this to teach universal salvation but Rev 14:9-11 shows that some will be punished f_____ in the lake of fire).
- b. It DOES NOT mean that God is **potentially** the Savior of everyone, but **actually** the Savior of believers. This is r_____ into the text something that is not there.
- c. What it DOES mean is directly related to how the world viewed the living God.
 - 1) Both the Jewish and non-Jewish world viewed the living God as the God of the Jewish people only.
 - 2) Jesus changed the above misconception
 - a) He came not to just take away the sins of the Jewish people but the w_____ of people (Jn 3:16)
 - b) He is the Savior of all people groups (Rev 5:9,10)

● At what do you labor? – Make sure that your labor...

- 1. Is about living godly (actions stem from your r_____ relationship to God)
- 2. Is based on h_____ in the living God
 - a. He will use your godliness to save the world of people.
 - b. It will enable you to face t_____, discouragement, and even opposition as you persist in godliness.

In what does your assurance rest? (10b)

● Why does Paul say that God is the Savior of all people, *especially believers* (NLT translates as *particularly*)?

1. This same word is found in verse 17 – *The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.*
 - a. This DOES NOT mean that it is possible for an elder to rule well without working hard at preaching and teaching.
 - b. This DOES mean that working hard at preaching and teaching is the m_____ of ruling well.
2. So also in verse 10 (*God is the Savior of all people, especially believers*)
 - a. Just because Jesus is the Savior of the Jewish people, does not mean that if you are a Jew that He is your Savior. You must b_____ in Jesus.
 - b. Jesus is the Savior of all people groups. They will find salvation in n_____ else (Acts 4:12). But each person within that people group must believe in Jesus in order for Him to become his or her Savior.
 - c. The basis of salvation is not race or works, but f_____ (Eph 2:8,9).

● Hope in the living God gives us a_____ of our salvation

1. If you were to die right now, would you be certain that you would be in heaven with Jesus?
 - a. Some who have trusted Christ are uncertain because they still have serious s_____ issues.
 - 1) God does not w_____ to save people after they clear up their sin issues.
 - 2) God saves people and then motivates them to w_____ on their sin issues.
 - b. Some are absolutely certain
 - 1) Some are wrongly certain because they are basing their assurance on their g_____. (e.g. the Pharisees – Jn 9:41; Matt 23:15).
 - 2) Others are rightly certain because they are basing their assurance on what God has done for them in Jesus (Jn 3:16).
2. Hope in the living God gives you the right attitude