

What Is Your Ultimate Hope?

Hebrews 6:9-20

Introduction:

A. Kinds of Hope

1. Something based on uncertainty which may or may not happen.
2. Something based on certainty which will happen.

B. The biblical hope that is certain is in today's passage

1. This hope has to do with the faithfulness of Christ
 - a. Verse 18 - *the hope set before us.*
 - b. Verse 11- *until the end.*
2. This hope is connected to the resurrection of Christ
 - a. 1Jn 3:3 – *We know that when **He appears**, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has **this hope** fixed on Him, purifies himself.*
 - b. 1Pet 1:13 – **fix your hope** completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - c. Titus 2:13 – *looking for the **blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.*
3. Biblical hope is the future God has for us that is certain at the coming of Christ. It's a sure thing!

C. Today's lesson

1. Asks the question, "What is your ultimate hope?"
2. Begs an answer that will help us live meaningfully.

Do you have a steady hope? – an assurance for your thoughts and feelings (19)

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast.

A. What does the writer mean by the word, soul? – Greek word used 103 times in the New Testament

1. One time it means the s_____ aspect of our being (Matt 10:28 – *fear Him who can kill both body and soul in Gehenna*). Most of the time, the word *spirit* is used for this (Jms 2:26; Matt 27:50; 1Pet 3:19)
2. Sometimes it refers to our l_____ (e.g. Matt 16:26 – *what good is it if a man gain the whole world but forfeit his soul [life]*).
3. Most of the time it refers to the aspect of our being that thinks and f_____.
 - a. Psychology is the study of this aspect of our being (mind, will, emotions). Psyche is the Greek word for soul.
 - b. Jesus used this term this way in Matt 26:38
4. The context of Heb 6:19 tells us that the writer was using the word soul to refer to the mind, will, and emotions
 - a. Verse 11 (*show diligence* – involves the w_____)
 - b. Verse 12 (*do not be sluggish but imitators* – involves f_____ and the w_____)
 - c. Verse 18 (*be strongly encouraged* – refers to feelings and t_____).

B. Often times thoughts and feelings come into conflict with r_____.

1. Being called a derogatory n_____ may make us FEEL worthless
2. Failing h_____ might make us FEEL inadequate

3. Strained relationship might n_____ affect how we think and feel.
- C. In times of emotional turmoil, focus on something steadfast and s_____ (v. 19).
 1. This refers to our f_____ in Christ
 - a. It is a time of p_____
 - b. It is a state that is not temporary but p_____
 2. Don't let your mind, will, and emotions take you for a ride in the wrong direction. Anchor them in your future with Christ.

Do you have an active hope? – row in a positive direction (11,12)

- A. All Christians are in the s_____ boat
 1. We were at one time in the w_____
 2. Jesus threw us a life preserver and pulled us to s_____ onto the boat.
 3. Jesus gives each of us an o_____.
- B. Verses 11,12 urges the readers to be diligent until the e_____.
 1. The end starts with the coming of C_____ (Matt 24:14)
 2. Being diligent does not MAKE our hope certain as many translations read
 - a. The Greek text reads, *show diligence for the certainty of hope*, which tells us that hope is a c_____.
 - b. Because our hope is certain, we are to be diligent (compare 1Cor 15:58).
 3. Jesus' return should motivate us to be diligent in loving Him, obeying Him, listening to Him, serving Him, etc – Keep rowing.

Do you have a real hope? – the destination is God's presence (18-20)

- A. God cannot lie (v. 18)
 - a. Jesus said He will return, so He will.
 - b. The apostle Paul gained nothing by trusting Christ
 - 1) He was a pillar of the church
 - 2) He became the most persecuted man in his time.
- B. All believers have the same destination (v. 19 – behind the veil)
 - 1. Under the Old Testament system, the veil blocked the entrance to the Holy of Holies
 - 2. Under the Old Testament system, God's glory would often appear behind the veil.
- C. Jesus is the first (v. 20)
 - 1. Jesus went before us into God's glorious presence.
 - a. Jesus' resurrection guarantees our resurrection.
 - b. Jesus' ascension guarantees our ascension to God's glory presence.
 - c. our resurrection from the dead.
 - 2. One day all believers will see the heavenly that is certain.

Challenge: For the coming week, watch carefully what you base your hopes upon.

- 1. Anchor your thoughts and feelings in your certain future with Christ.
- 2. Make your life count each day regardless of the circumstances you face (keep rowing).