

The Promise of Hope

Intro:

The message this morning, I pray, will be a timely one for us. As you can see from the title we will be talking about the Promise of Hope that we have through Christ in God.

We are in one of the most troubling times of human history right now. In many ways there is a growing sentiment that there is little if any hope left out there for folks right now.

Forbes recently posted an article which states that....

- 70% of Americans are stressed about the economy
- One Third of Americans have displayed clinical signs of anxiety, depression or both
- 1 in 5 Americans say they have had a physical reaction when thinking about the outbreak (so the stress and worry is manifesting itself in physical affliction)
- Text messages to the federal distress hotline increase by more than 1,000% last month

Major news wires and articles seem to be incessantly talking about all the negatives..... the collapse of the economy, skyrocketing unemployment, systemic racism, inflationary risks for the future, the insurmountable national debt, Rising COVID cases and deaths....the list goes on and on.

Watching the decision making or government right now is sickening, maddening, frustrating, troubling and just about any other word that ends in ING that has a negative meaning.

Listen to this quote.....

“There’s no doubt that the coronavirus pandemic will be the most psychologically toxic disaster in anyone’s lifetime,” says George Everly, who teaches disaster mental health and resilience at Johns Hopkins. “This pandemic is a disaster of uncertainty, and the greater the uncertainty surrounding a disaster, the greater the psychological casualties.”

Pretty grim indeed. Well thanks Pastor. That was encouraging.....

But listen friends this is a pillow fight right now for those who truly followers of Jesus.....in the end we know that we will be delivered up into tribulation, put to death and we will be hated by all nations for the name of Christ.

But here is the amazing rock solid truth in all of this we don’t place our faith and trust in the economy, in our jobs, in the security of our retirement accounts, in medicine or in vaccines, in face masks or social distancing, in elections, in presidents, in supreme courts, in governors or governments or kings.....

In the face of all of that.....Our text this morning says that we have a sure and steadfast anchor for our soul.

When all around my soul gives way He then is all my Hope and Stay! On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand all other ground is sinking sand!

In scripture there is this inseparable link between Faith and Hope. We understand that Faith is a free gift from God to those who believe in Christ as the only Savior of their sins. This divine gift of faith is alien to us, that is to say it is outside of us and through God’s decree to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness we are declared as justified before God and then faith in God becomes ours.

Hope becomes ours when our faith takes root and grows into a vision of the future that we can rest secure in. In earthly things our hope can be placed in future events, or circumstances or people and we can be disappointed. When we hope in God however our hope is secure. When our hope is secure we don't end up with psychological casualties because of uncertainty we end up with a joy filled life.

So how do we get there though? What must increase in our faith so that we can live in light of hope?

If you want to understand something in a deep and more meaningful way there must be a committed effort to grow in knowledge and truth and also in experience.

Example of Drumming: (Story of my son and sitting behind the drum kit)

In order to learn and grow in a spiritual sense we grow in the knowledge of God and it is through our circumstances that our faith is grown through the soil of our experience. This is why scripture is clear that Hope is first established in the personhood of God and the work of Christ but it is grown in us through process. That process is now brothers and sisters. In the midst of our misery and trials.

Romans 5:3–5 (ESV)

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

In order for this to happen in a spiritual sense we are dependent upon the spirit of God to give us eyes to see and hearts that are receptive and open. Let's pray for God to intercede and help us this morning.

So Who wants to climb in the drum kit with me and see how lost we are and how dependent upon God we need to be so that we can have the kind of Hope that is described in our text this morning.

Please Pray With Me:

Pray for God's word to accomplish its purposes, Pray for our eyes and our hearts to be open, Pray for understanding, Pray for our faith to be grown so that our Hope in Christ might increase.

Hebrews 6:13–20 (ESV)

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

14 Key propositional statements in the text: (let's go through these together that our faith might grow and our hope would increase as we seek to live lives that are pleasing to the Lord and are a shining testimony to the lost world around us.

Dr. MacArthur has four helpful categories for this passage. God's Person, God's Purpose, God's Pledge, God's Priesthood

As we go through these statements see which category they can be connected to.

- God made a Promise to Abraham
 - Gen 22
- He swore by himself
 - Genesis 22:16
- Abraham having waited patiently obtained the promise
 - Genesis 22:17
- An oath is final confirmation (appeal to authority, mic drop)
- Unchangeable Character (immutability) Prov 19:21, Psalm 110:4,
 - The big theological point here is about the character of God - His unchangeableness is referred to as the Immutability of God.
 - This characteristic or attribute of God is one that will make your brain feel like exploding because in our finite state as humans we don't have a category for it.
 - Arthur Pink in his great resource on the attributes of God writes "Immutability is one of the Divine perfections which is not sufficiently pondered. It is one of the excellencies of the Creator which distinguishes him from all his creatures. God is perpetually the same: subject to no change in his being, attributes or determinations."
 - Pink writes further to say that God is unchanging in his Essence, His Attributes and His Counsel. "The realization of this ought to make us lie down under a sense of our own nothingness in the presence of him "in whom we live, and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)
- Two Unchangeable Things (God's Word & God's Oath) (Titus 1:2)
- We who have Fled for Refuge (Six refuge cities) (Those that have found security in God) (Numbers 35)
 - Kadesh - Holy (Holiness of Jesus as our refuge)
 - Shechem - Shoulder Isaiah 9:6 (government on his shoulders)
 - Hebron - Fellowship (we are called into fellowship with Christ)
 - Bezer - Fortress (Psalm 62 - God is our unshakable fortress)
 - Ramoth - High Place Acts 5:31 - Christ exalted on high.
 - Golan - Joy - We are justified in Christ and have peace with God (true Joy)
- Might have strong encouragement (Encouragement is found in the object of our refuge) (Hebrews 7:25)
- Hold fast to the hope set before us (1Peter 1:13-16)
- Sure and Steadfast anchor of the soul (Jude 24,25)
- Hope that enters into the place behind the curtain (Matt 27:51, Mark 15:38, Luke 23:45)
- Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf (Romans 8:34)
- High Priest forever (Hebrews 1:3)
- After the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 10:12)

All of those six phrases tie together beautifully in the metaphor of the Anchor.

As a boats anchor passes through the turbulent waters to find the secure footing of the ocean floor so too our souls pass through the trouble times to find our security and hope in the foundation of God and His word.

The rope is what connects the vessel to the anchor which is secure to the ocean floor. For the believer Christ connects us to the Promise of God and Christ is there to Hold us Fast.

Melchizedek as our high priest (would offer to God once a year for the sins of the people. The rope would be used to tie around his leg should he be struck dead as an imperfect sacrifice and then be pulled back out before the presence of God. The rope was the connection between the people of God and the presence of God to enter in before the Lord.

Christ came to tear down the veil. He enters into the presence of God on our behalf as a sure and steady anchor for our soul to find peace, hope and security in God through Christ.

Christ is who connects our lives to God's through his ministry as our high priest.

Application:

If you want to have a hope filled heart you need to have a heaven filled mind.

Put Off: (confess areas of known sin where your Hope has been placed in anything but God)

Put On: (Scripture meditation and memory)

Dwell App

Fighter Verse App

**Finish Well,
Stephen Janho**