

Notes:

The Good Part of Having No Hope

By Dr. Ron Wolfe – January 22, 2009

One might ask why we should bring such a message to the public regarding the good part of having no hope, but the reader must be reminded that hope is not eternal but only temporary. The temporary nature of hope is good in itself, which we shall see as we proceed.

Quite to the contrary, those who have no hope in this life or a hope for only this life are of men most miserable: 1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. There is no hope to the man who remains in his sins. There is no hope for those who search for self-righteousness. There is no hope for the man who does not believe.

But there is a time when it is a good part to have no hope. When and upon what circumstances can this be so? We shall look into the scriptures to see and understand the meaning of this uncommon musing concerning hope.

First, we must consider that hope is toward that which we cannot see, those things beyond our immediate grasp. Romans 8:25 says, "But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." It is a good thing to have a hope that we have not as yet experienced. It keeps us patient, and not only that, but also stimulates us to do the work ahead of us in the work of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Both the weak and strong man will remain sedate without a regular reminder of what he must do in the days ahead. The man who works at a job shall be stimulated with the hope that he will receive his wages (a type of reward) for the work that he does. If the reader does not realize this, he must consider how much more traffic is evident on Friday evenings after those who work the week are given their salaries than on days before Friday. One can hardly maneuver on the highways because of the many automobiles that men drive to various eating places, games, and entertainment due to the fact that their hopes have taken them to this place, their having now the means to go here and there to do simply this and that.

So, the Christian also has a stimulating hope in his Savior to do those things which the Lord commands him to do. He longs for and anticipates the fellowship he may have with his fellow Christians at his local church. He takes the time to set aside his tithe so that it can be paid when he attends the Lord's house. He takes care not to hurt the feelings or the persons of others, and he desires to be both a personal and verbal witness of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He may walk together with an unbeliever through wooded fields and acknowledge the great miracles of nature as he comprehends the great wonder of God's creation, while the unbeliever may notice very little of this. The unbeliever takes God's nature for granted and does not give glory to the God of heaven for the things that he sees, hears, touches, and tastes. Oh, believer, our hope lies ahead of us, not behind us. We must forge yonder toward that prize of the high calling of God. We cannot look back but forward toward that which God has yet for us to know and experience.

Also, the Christian must learn patience to wait for that which our hope will bring, not only in the life to come but in this very life here on earth. Matthew 12:35 tells us that "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." We have wonderful treasure in an earthen vessel where the grace, mercy and love of God abide (2 Cor. 4:7), so we must be patient to play with talented

members those tunes which God has given us in our own hearts to enjoy as his treasures. This is our worship, our praise, our knowledge that God is supreme and can do all that is necessary to make our lives what he wants them to be.

Job learned this patience; so should we learn this patience. God's book tells us to have patient continuance in well doing (Rom. 2:7). He encourages us, also, to be patient in tribulation (Rom. 12:12). We are to be patient toward all men (1 Thess. 5:14) and to patiently wait for Christ to come (2 Thess. 3:5). The Christian is to be patient unto the coming of our Lord (James 5:7), for this is a continual and ever-present patience that is given to us by God. This is our hope in this life and the life to come.

Second, we must know that, when that which we cannot see comes to reality and our eyes actually do see that for which we have hoped, our hope ends. This is that blessed hope for which our hearts are looking and longing: Titus 2:13 explains to us that we are "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

The thing that should be noticed here is that, when that for which we are looking and longing has been accomplished, then our hope will fade into the shadows in view of the reality of our Savior, Jesus Christ, as we see him face to face. Notice what Romans 8:24 says: "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" Why should we continue to hope for something that has already come, something for which we have waited so long and is now a reality? That which is seen is not hope; it is sight.

We must acknowledge that now we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7); but when we shall see Jesus face to face, then we shall walk by sight, knowing even as we are known, seeing that which before we could only image and about which the Holy Spirit must remind us only in our hearts and not to our eyes. This is hope made sure, hope opened to its fullest grandeur, hope finished, hope abolished!

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." This grand verse reminds us of the three things which remain after the confirming gifts are done away—faith, hope and charity (love). Faith remains, for it is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). Hope remains, because it is that anchor that is both sure and steadfast, that which enters into the veil (Heb. 6:19). But when this earth is gone and Satan has no more sway or influence upon each believer, the saints have been taken out of this sin-cursed world, and Christ has come for his people, then faith will no longer be necessary, and hope will fade into the darkest past. But love will continue, for it is the crowning grace of our God who loved us and gave himself for us (Eph. 5:2; Titus 2:14). He loves from the foundation of the world with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3). His love brought his Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to manifest God's love to us (John 3:16).

Once this love has been enthroned in heaven in a perfect way, abiding perfectly both in God himself and in all of God's children, then hope will be unnecessary. There is no hope in Heaven, because our hopes and dreams have all been fulfilled—all is now perfection in the fullest sense of the word. We now have our mansions, and our Lord is ever present before us in constant and glorious view of our physical eyes. Now I can see only in a spiritual way as the Holy Spirit gives me understanding, but then I will see, and my eyes shall behold my Savior. Balaam said, "I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh" (Num. 24:17), Job said in 23:9 "On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him." But one day "every eye shall see him," (Rev. 1:7). He is real, and he is due to

make his appearance to his people. This will be a glorious day.

Now we have a sure and steadfast hope, but when Jesus comes, we will need no more hope, because everything that we have longed for shall be brought to pass in a perfect (complete) way. It may not seem to be pertinent to say that we shall be glad when hope is gone, but it is both sane and scriptural to do so. May hope soon be gone so that love can ever live.