

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

112920A

INTRODUCTION

1. For what are you thankful? Hope.
2. "Well, it depends... I hope so... but..." Christian hope is a certainty.

1st: Those Outside Christ Have No Hope

1. Eph 2:11-13 - focus: v12 - experiential: remember? => former experience
 - i. *separate from Christ - formerly v2 & v3*. Remember being ruled by lust, not living under reign of Christ?
 - ii. *excluded from the commonwealth of Israel - separate & excluded* = realm of death, w/o the living God
 - a. *commonwealth* = citizen in nation: theocracy - God's gov't
 - b. Gentiles given dif/ levels of integration into OCov nation, but as Gentiles, they were $\chi\tau\iota\zeta\epsilon\nu\sigma$ of nations governed by demonic idols.
 - c. Rm 9:3-5 blessings of Israel according to the flesh. Note: to be *separate from Christ* is to be *accursed* - anathema; also *the covs*
 - iii. *strangers to covs of promise*: AbCov; OCov; DavCov; Jer 31:31-34.
 - iv. *having no hope* - Vulgate: *having no hope of the promise* [Gn 3:15].
 - a. w/o promises -> hopelessness.
 - b. Hope is determined by the trustworthiness of the Promiser.
 - v. *w/o God* - no experiential relationship; no fear of God- Eph 4:17-19.
 - a. *a depraved mind* [Rom 1:25, 28].
 - b. Knowledge of God engages entire humanity - not knowledge from creation & conscience [Rm 1:20], but saving knowledge - Jn 17:3
 - c. *w/o God* - yet *image of God* - inevitable: idolatry [Athenians - A 17 & Babylonians - Hab 1:11]. Men become like what they worship - Hab 2:18 *an idol is a teacher of falsehood* - will idolaters believe in lies & tell lies?
 - vi. *in the world* - cosmos: original creation: good but fallen; common curse sustained by common grace - Ps 17:14-15 *this world, this life*.
 - a. *portion* => inheritance, allotment - creation's "goods"
 - 1b. *this world - this life* - boundary of hope: cursed w/ death
2. Heb 2:14-15 Devil's power of death - *enslave thru fear of death - all life*
 - i. *this life* is experienced as *fearing death* - the fear & death: miserable
 - ii. The condition of *flesh & blood* - all men: *slavery to the fear of death*.
3. How is Satan's power of death exerted on men?
 - i. Satan a tempter: entices to sin: obtain a "good" by breaking law. Adam
 - ii. Satan is accuser: indicts as guilty before the bar of God. Job.
 - iii. Conscience echoes Devil's indictments -> distracts from fear of death.
4. Death becomes the defining point of reference for living. Vanity: Solomon.
5. Frantic grasping after what is passing away. Discipleship - Lk 17:33.
6. Fear of death - coercive intimidation.

2nd: We in Christ Have Hope

1. 1Pt 3:14-16 v14 - not fear their fear [same term]; *troubled*: panicked. Isa 8:12-13; Mt 10:28. Overcome fear of men's anger w/ fear of God's anger.
 - i. Note: *suffer for sake of righteousness* - Lk 6:22
 - ii. Xn exposes the hopelessness - angers - v16.
2. Do 4 thgs: **1st**] v14 - suffer & do not fear; **2nd**] v15,16 tend to inner man:

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a. *sanctify Christ as Lord heart* = worship

-0b. *keep a good conscience* - integrity - Rm 12:1-2

3rd] v16 - *good behavior* - Tit 2:11-14.

3. Your *good behavior* could incite curiosity - **4th]** *be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks*. Explain why you have hope.

i. *an account*: a message - communicate words

ii. *the hope that is in you* - YOUR experiential religion - Col 1:27; your faith [Hb 11:1] - faith, hope, love: essence of experiential religion - speak about the One you trust; His promises & why you hope in Him.

iii. *yet w/ gentleness & reverence* - but [contrast w/ anger of intimidation]

a. *gentleness* - "a quality of friendliness"; accommodate to weakness

b. *reverence* - fear = respect; realize what person is facing: w/o hope

04. Final judgment: *will be put to shame*: defeat; discover you've relied on a lie.

Applic #1: Do Not Live With Misplaced Hope

1. 1Pt 3:14-16

2. Misplaced hope - contained w/i this life, this world. We want to overcome fear w/ hope, but do not settle for misplaced hope.

3. 1Pt 1:13 *completely* - final hope - v8. Be thankful for hope!