

Hebrews 7.19

Better Hope

In the life of the mind, what we set our eyes upon shapes and aims the rest of our life. We seek and we search looking for that which we desire, that for which we hope. But all too often our hope is set upon the shallow, upon the passing, upon the flesh. These hopes that drive us on, are really just a longing for escape... but real hope is not built upon a desire away from; true hope is fashioned from a desire toward. And more, it is birthed from the power of God to fulfill its longing. It is fashioned out of the stuff of our soul's hunger. The scripture promises us that hope is the purview of those who are found in Christ, because hope is derived from and defined by His finished work on the cross. It supersedes all other desires, transmutes all other promises, transforms all other motives, and becomes that which both enlivens and guards the mind and life.

I. THE LAW MADE NOTHING PERFECT

A. Established unattainable mandates

1. These enflamed our passions which fueled our sin

Romans 7.7-12

2. They ignited a cascade of rebellion in our hearts

Romans 7.13-20

3. Left us captive to our lusts, dead in our trespasses and blind to our greatest need.

Romans 7.21-24

B. In response to the law, men created even more laws of minutia to try and prove they were capable of keeping the law; but in truth only provided more room for sin.

Matthew 23.13-28

C. They then empowered a feeling of superiority among those who did these little things, while simultaneously avoiding the true heart of the issue... which is an issue of the heart.

D. The only true purpose of the law, is to show us our guilt and drive us to Christ.

Romans 5:20(NKJV) 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

Romans 7:25(NKJV) 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Galatians 3:24(NKJV) 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

II. THE OTHER HAND; THE GOSPEL

- A. The gospel casts us on the mercy of God - which is to make it plain that He is our hope and our life.

Romans 9.13-18

- B. The Gospel is built on better promises

1. A new heart -

Ezekiel 36:26–27(NKJV) 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

2. Cleansed by the mercy of God

Isaiah 1:18(NKJV) 18 “Come now, and let us reason together, ”Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like

scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

3. Forgiveness for sin

Acts 13:38–39(NKJV) 38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

4. Removal of guilt

Romans 5.15-19

C. The Gospel is sustained by better power

1. The power of God

1 Corinthians 1:18(NKJV) 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2. The creative Word of God

2 Corinthians 4:6(NKJV) 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

3. Death defeating, life creating, hope empowering

1Corinthians 15.53-58

D. The Gospel is accomplished according to better purposes

1. To completely remove sin

Romans 6:17–18(NKJV) 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

2. To free us

John 8.31-36

3. To make us God's own children

a. Adopted as children

Romans 8.15-17

b. Always the purpose of God

Ephesians 1:5–6(NKJV) 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

4. To grant us victory over sin, both in its consequence and in its practice

Romans 8.1-8

III. THE GOSPEL IS THE BETTER HOPE

- A. Hope produces change
Romans 5.1-5
- B. Hope produces love
2Peter 1.5-11
- C. Hope produces Life
Titus 3.4-8
- D. Hope produces Christlikeness
Titus 2.11-14
- E. Hope produces hope

Romans 15:4(NKJV) 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Romans 8:24–25(NKJV) 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

IV. HOPE SUSTAINS IN ALL DIFFICULTIES.

- A. Overcomes despair
- B. Overcomes depression
- C. Overcomes darkness
- D. Overcomes hate

E.Overcomes sorrow

F.Overcomes loss

G. Overcomes the present moment with the promise our eternal Father

H. For Hope is the reality of our existence as Christians. This life with its trials, its temporary pleasures, its passing, fleeting, vapid purposes can have nothing whatsoever to do with the eternal reality that is ours in Christ. When we allow the things of this world to overshadow our vision of God and His promise to us, we lose that which is best and purest from our sight and become lost in the shadows... but hope is the light of God's promise being shown in the darkness, pressed onto our hearts and lifting us out of the well of our weakness and failures in the glorious radiance of His presence... through the gospel and its hope we draw near to God...