

The Biblical Doctrine of Hope

1. Definition

Biblical hope has three key components:

- a) **ORIENTATION**: Hope always looks to **the future**
- b) **BASIS**: Hope is always focused on **something desirable**
- c) **EXPECTATION**: Hope itself is the strong conviction that one will receive the desirable outcome.

2. Function

- a) Biblical hope serves as our **key motivation** for success in trial and suffering.
- b) Hope is God's protocol way of bringing us along in our walk with Him.
- c) Because of Christian hope we can rejoice in the Lord regardless of our circumstances.
- d) The essential quality of **stability of soul** comes from Christian hope.
- e) This stability makes us fit for service in God's work.

3. Requirements

- a) Basis: For hope to be active we must keep our focus on God and His promises.
- b) This calls for a constant intake of God's Word that will be radically different—in terms of volume--from most people in our culture.
- c) The greater volume of conflict and distraction, the greater will be our need for the redirect of God's word.
- d) God's word calls for our faith. It will not profit us if we don't believe it.
- e) Hope must be guarded in terms of its basis: What is your hope?
- f) Orientation: Biblical hope requires a constant orientation to the future.
- g) God's promises are generally **future and eternal** things.
- h) God has promised His presence and strength and care for our present circumstances.

- i) However, most of what we agonize over involves the future in some way.
- j) Our fears are almost universally fears concerning loss.
- k) Lost opportunities, lost wealth, lost health, lost income, etc.
- l) There is no security regarding fear of loss without knowledge of the future.
- m) Expectation: If we believe God's word concerning our present and future, we should **expect** Him to do what He said He would do.
- n) We should grow in our expectation of the promises of the Resurrection, the Judgment Seat of Christ, and the eternal coming Kingdom.

4. Key Passages

- a) 1 Peter 1:13-16
- b) Romans 8:24-25
- c) 1 Cor 15:12-**19**
- d) 2 Cor 1:10
- e) 1 Tim 4:10, 5:5, 6:17