

## HOPE

### **Purpose of the Book**

1. Establish True Christology - Col 1:14-29; 2:9-15 - Supremacy of Christ
2. Refute False Teachers - Gnosticism teaching mix of Greek & Jewish ascetic mysticism Col 2:8; 16-23 - don't taste, touch or handle
3. Develop accurate description of the Christian life - Col 2:6-7; Ch 2-4 22 imperatives
  - Imperatives are commands & exhortations to live out the CWL

### **Principles from the Passage**

**Vs 1-2** - standard intro - no verbs; emphasizes God's will, Timothy is Paul's brother in the Lord (give Tim credibility to lead), to saints (bel's) & faithful brothers, Grace & peace from GF

**Vs 3-8** We give thanks, praying always for you, since we heard about your **faith, hope & love**. Faith in Christ Jesus, Love for all Saints, Because of the hope being laid up for you

- Faith & love are virtue choices - faith in Christ; love for all bel's
- Hope (**elpis** - expectation) is the object of hope ie **what** we are expecting to happen

### **Faith/Hope > Love**

- A. Vs 5 dia + AccFS elpis - because of the hope - The object hoped for - blessings of heaven
- B. These bel's had heard & believed the gospel, bringing them to eternal salvation, giving them the promises of eternal blessings with God, which they also had believed.
- C. Their confident expectation that when they died they would be transferred to eternal bliss had given them absolute security & confidence about their earthly lives.
- D. Their inner peace from eternal security gave them the capacity to love others unconditionally.
  - Confident expectation (hope) about our future frees us from the fear of death
  - Victory over fear of death frees heart to give love generously, knowing we will have enough
- E. Faith, hope & love are natural capacities of the soul, but they must be attached to an object.
  - All natural capacities (faith, hope, love, fear, anger) require an object to which we will attach
  - Faith in who/what? Hope in who/what? Love who/what? Fear who/what? Hate who/what?

**Faith - Hope - Love** - Paul's view of the way the human soul works; 1Cor 13:13; 1Thes 1:2; 5:8

Faith - what we believe forms belief system - determines our views about life, love & happiness

Hope - what we believe is what we expect to happen - determines what we see in our future

Love - how we relate - Conditional-human; Unconditional-supernatural - accomplish our hopes

**1 Cor 13:13 But now remain faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

### **Doctrine of Hope**

1. **Def: elpizo elpis** - to expect, anticipate, confident expectation; to attach confidence to a future event or situation; to attach your expectations to a person or future situation. **Faith/hope** are 2 sides of the same coin. Whatever you believe to be true is what you expect to happen in your life.

**Lk. 6:34** - lend to only those from whom you **expect a return** - those you believe or expect to pay you back.

**1Pt.1:13** - attach your expectations fully, completely to the grace to be revealed **in Christ**

- Focus on your future blessings from the grace to be given when Christ is revealed
- We take specific actions in life expecting specific results - marriage, investing

- A. Hope/expectation is about the future – Rom 8:24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has.
- B. Expectations come from our beliefs – Rom 15:13 – **whatever** we believe will happen in the future forms our expectations about our future
- C. Our hope is our personal attachment to a positive future – what we hope for self
- D. We develop strategies - a life plan to get us to where we want to go – comes out of what we believe will bring +H in our lives – either worldly or spiritual
- E. We fix hope on worldly/material future or on what God’s grace has provided
  - Our expectations determine how we deal with relationships; types of relationships we choose (Paul); spiritual life; career; finances; geography, every area of life

**2. The object of hope/expectations determines its validity.**

**False Hope/unrealistic expectations**– attach faith/hope in man & the things of this life

Job 8:13-14 – the hope of the godless will perish  
 Job 31:24 – don’t make gold your hope or put confidence in wealth  
 Job 8:14 – those who forget God, their hope is in the strength of a spider’s web

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the LORD, Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD.

- A. False hope is the expectation that man or things/life can save or give +H
- B. False hope comes from believing the world’s lie of life w/out God.
- C. False hope pursues the things of this life for +H – wealth as security
- D. False hope will always bring utter disappointment – cursed is the man

**Godly Hope** – placing your faith/hope in God and the things of eternity

**Luke 12:33** Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

Psm 31:24 – those who trust in the Lord will strengthen their hearts  
 Psm 42:5 – hope in the Lord quiets the disturbed soul  
 Psm 38:15 – hope in the Lord receives answers to prayer

- A. The Lord always delivers what He promises – He is able to deliver
- B. Hope in the Lord lacks worldly excitement but it is certain & secure
- C. It is important to be realistic about what God is promising
  - He does not promise to protect us from all the evil things in this life – He promises the strength to overcome all the evil in the world – Jn 16:33
  - He does not promise relationships w/out disappointment – He promises to strengthen our capacity to love w/out conditions and enable us to forgive – Eph 4:31-32
- D. Hope in the Lord never ends in disappointment –

**Rom 5:5** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.