

“THAT BLESSED HOPE”

INTRODUCTION

In Jer. 17, The Lord pronounces a “curse” upon one who trusts in “man”, and then a “blessing” on one who trusts in the “Lord.” Read Jer. 17;5-8. In the New Testament, Paul uses the words “blessed” and “hope” together, and joins them with the expectation of the “glorious appearing” of Jesus at the end of time. Read Tit. 2:11-13, emphasizing v. 13.

The word “hope” involves 3 points of time: the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE. In the present we have hope, as based on what has happened in the past, and what we are hoping **for** in the future. Let’s study “that blessed hope” with this in mind.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let’s consider the “PAST” of “that blessed hope.”

A. This “blessed hope” is based on the PAST “promise” of God. Tit. 1:2

1. God’s promises are always dependable. 2 Pet. 3:8-9; Heb. 6:17-19
2. NEVER has a promise from God gone unkept or unfulfilled. Acts 26:6-8 (discuss)

B. This “blessed hope” is also based on the PAST “resurrection” of Jesus from the grave.

1 Pet. 1:3

1. The resurrection of Jesus involved 2 things.

- a. 1st, it of necessity involved His **death**, which was a separation of His spirit from His body. Jas. 2:26; Luke 23:46
- b. 2nd, of necessity was the **return** of His spirit to the body for a re-uniting of both for the existence of life.

2. The resurrection of Jesus is assurance that we too shall have our hope fulfilled.

1 Cor. 15:19-20

3. The resurrection of Jesus is what makes the gospel complete, as it is the story of the death, burial **and** resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:1-4

II. 2nd, let’s consider the “PRESENT” of “that blessed hope.”

A. “That blessed hope” exists NOW (at the *present time*) in the “salvation” from our past sins. Tit. 2:11-13

1. Note that Paul speaks of the “salvation” from God’s grace. v. 11

2. Then he speaks of how we are to live in view of this. v. 12

3. Finally, he ties this with our blessed hope in looking for the appearance of Jesus. v. 13

B. “That blessed hope” also exists (at the *present time*) in the “love” of God, which we continually enjoy. Rom. 5:1-5 (Discuss and relate “hope” and God’s “love” together.)

1. The love of God is what makes “salvation” and “heaven” possible. John 3:16

2. A banker in New York during the time of World War II, wanted to convey God’s love to the soldiers at Sandy Hook in time of conflict. He hired a manufacturer to make some small mirrors 3 inches in diameter, with John 3:16 printed on the back. Underneath the scripture where the words, “*If you want to see who it is that God loves and for whom He gave His Son, look on the other side.*,” He had thousands of these made and sent to the soldiers to remind them of God’s love.

III. 3rd, let’s consider the “FUTURE” of “that blessed hope.”

A. “That blessed hope” for a **future inheritance** in heaven. 1 Pet. 1:3-5 (Discuss)

1. God HAS given us eternal life now in prospect, and in “hope” for the **future**.
Rom. 8:24-25
2. We “look for” or anticipate the enjoyment of this hope for the future when Jesus returns in the heavens to raise us from the dead and take us home to glory.
Tit. 2:13; John 14:1-3

B. “That blessed hope” is for a **future** reunion with righteous loved ones. 1 Thess.4:13-18

1. The song, “We shall Meet Some Day” by Tillit S. Teddlie is a song of comfort.

*How our hearts ache with grief as we say good-by, We shall meet some day.
Where no sorrow or tears ever dim the eye, We shall meet some day.
When we’ve all crossed the stream with its rolling tide, We shall meet some day.
In the city of rest on the other side, We shall meet some day.
What a glorious thought, as we say good-by, We shall meet someday.*

Chorus

*We shall meet where no storm clouds gather, We shall meet some day.
By the river of life, sparkling cool, and clear, We shall meet some day.*

2. What a glorious day it will be to be eternally together with Christian family and loved ones who are gathered to praise God and enjoy heaven forever and ever.

CONCLUSION

- I. So, “that blessed hope” of believers involves the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE.
 - A. Sometimes our earthly hopes are shattered when we are troubled about earthly matters and health issues, and we have disappointment.
 - B. But, we can depend on God, as He has given us assurance in the scripture, that He will indeed bless us in the fulfillment of our hopes for the final inheritance.
- II. Do you have this hope?
 - A. If you want it, you need to confess your faith in Jesus as God’s son, repent of every sin, and put on Jesus in immersion in water and begin living the new life.
 - B. If you have lost this hope because of sin in your life, you need to repent and pray to God for forgiveness as you return to the Lord,.

Don Tarbet