

Repositioning Your Hope

Philippians 3:17-21

Show Video

Photo 1

Introduction

- A. Why is it that a church that is under persecution prospers?
 - a. Why is it that a church that is suffering prospers?
 - b. How could a church that is forced to meet in secret, still risking all, prosper?
- B. I have pondered this for years.
 - a. I've read many commentaries on this subject
 - b. I have concluded, based mostly on my own experience
 - c. Hope
- C. Not Hope itself – but the positioning of hope
 - a. We all have hope ... Or at least what we call hope
- D. The Definition of Hope (can be a noun or a verb)

to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence.

Biblical Hope

The vision of something better in the future, that changes the way you live today.

- E. Hope is always in the future
 - a. Hope is a destination...
- F. The reason so many of you struggle through life's trials...
 - a. Your hope is in the wrong place
 - b. Proverbs 13:21 – Hope deferred makes the heart sick
- I. Our hope is not on this earth

Colossians 3:1-2

(1) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- A. The difference in those people we talked about in the beginning and us?
 - a. The location of their hope
 - b. Their hope is not in life here, but life there
 - c. They have no hope in this world of things getting better and they accept that
 - d. They realize that what lies ahead of them in heaven is greater than anything they will find or face here.
 - e. You and I would say that, but we really don't believe it or mean it.

- B. We place our hope in things of this world.
 - a. Where you place your hope impacts the way you live
 - b. Where your hope lies...your heart lies

- C. What impact does the things you are hoping for have on the way you live?
 - a. **Most of us are too comfortable where we are, or we think we will be comfortable if we can just get...**

II. Setting our Minds

- A. Most Western Christians have a hard time dealing with scenes like those I showed earlier.
 - a. We feel "sorry" for them but spend little time thinking of them.
 - b. It is beyond our realm of experience

- B. The truth of it is "We have things"
 - a. And those "things" take most of our time and attention
 - to obtain
 - to maintain
 - b. And ultimately, though few of us realize or admit it, our hope is in those things.
 - c. And those things, are here on the earth.

Colossians 3:2

(2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

III. Look at what Jesus said about all of this

Luke 12:15-21

(15) And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

(16) Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully."

(17) And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

(18) So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.'

(19) And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."

(20) But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

(21) "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

- A. Where was this man's mind set?
- On things of the earth
 - By earthly standards he was blessed.
 - If he had been a church member at The Bend everyone would have been mesmerized at how he was blessed
- B. But what did God say about Him? "You are a fool".
- Why? He laid up treasure for himself
 - Where was that treasure? On Earth
 - He placed his hope in the things he had here Temporary
 - God said you fool, when you die, who is going to enjoy this stuff?
- C. I would say to you that there are two reasons why people are so worried about the times we live in
- Physical danger
 - The uncertainty of stuff
- D. Why the uncertainty of stuff? That is where we find our comfort...our hope
- We are much more like this rich man than we think
- E. But Jesus didn't stop there

Luke 12:29-34

(29) "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind."

(30) For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

(31) But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

(32) "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

(33) Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

(34) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A. What did God say about the rich man?

“So is he [a fool] who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”

B. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also If I may,

a. If I may...Where your heart is, you will place your hope.

c. And that is the difference in us and them

d. They put no hope in this world...we put all of our hope in this world.

c. They have their mind set on things above...

C. An important point – Jesus is not against riches and wealth

a. He understood the danger of it

b. He understood the control that riches place on us

c. He was not against the man having a great harvest.

d. He was against the attitude it gave him

D. What we call our blessings in the US...have become our curses

E. **We really don't think that "Heaven", being in the presence of God is better than what this world has to offer.**

a. And that is why we don't really want to go there.

b. That is why we worry about what is happening all around us

c. We see the hopes we have placed in this world being dashed

IV. But we are told to place our mind on things above

A. Hebrews 11 and 12 the hall of faith

a. None of them saw the fulfillment of their promise

b. We are told they were all looking ahead

B. Hebrews 12: Jesus for the joy set before him endured the cross

a. Before him where? In eternity

C. Few people would say they do not want to go to heaven

a. Yet few people, including Christians live like they are

D. As a boy and even later I really wasn't excited about heaven

a. The way I heard it described it didn't sound very exciting

b. I understood it as one long boring never ending church service.

c. And even now I hear we are going to praise and worship always

E. Most Christians have no clue where we are headed or what it will be like.

a. That is why we put our hope in this world and not the next.

Conclusion

- A. Hope placed in the things of this world will always at some point crumble
- B. The days ahead are not looking very bright for this world
 - a. A pre-tribulation rapture has lulled the church into thinking we will not face any of the hard stuff that is coming.
 - b. That simply is not guaranteed
 - c. Paul, Peter, and Jude warn us of difficult days
 - d. Days that will dash the hope of those who have placed it here on earth
- C. But for those who are looking up, who have become rich in God...
 - a. The reward of faithful living is at hand
- D. The ultimate question:
 - Are you living for what is temporary?
 - Or that which is eternal?