

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

Hope in God

December 25, 2024

Preliminary

Note: Hope is not merely a wish... i.e., “*I hope it will come true*”

Biblical meaning: Hope is a strong assurance about things that are not yet clear – but with confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness.

Romans 8:24-25 = *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?* ²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Hebrews 11:1 = *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*

Point: The revelation of a true Christian is one who lives by faith and hope in Christ Jesus... Pro 23:18

Negative: A life without trust in God has no direction... Job 7:6

➤ Those who do not believe in Christ will have no salvation when they face death... Isa 38:18; Job 17:15

Positive: Those who look to Christ as their hope are comforted and strengthened by God... Ps 28:7; Jer 29:11; Jn 14:1-3

1. The Certainty of Hope in Christ

Note: The idea of salvation in the OT is realized in Christ in the NT ... Gen 3:15; Isa 7:14; Mt 1:23; Jn 19:30; 1 Cor 15:20, 23

1 Peter 1:3 = *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*

Point: The hope of salvation is rooted only in faith in Christ... Jn 11:25-27

➤ Hope in eternal life... Jn 10:28-30; Rom 6:22-23; Titus 3:5-7

➤ Hope in the resurrection... 1 Thes 4:14; 1 Cor 15:17ff

2. Comfort for Those Who Hope in God

Note 1: Whatever challenges or sufferings in life are comforted by hope in Christ

Note 2: The comfort given by the Triune God is experienced only by those who have faith in Christ.

➤ Christ's Word is the comfort of every believer's troubled hearts... Jn 14:1f; 11:1-44 (25)

Hebrews 4:15 = *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin*

➤ The Holy Spirit was sent by Christ and the Father for the comfort of God's children... Jn 14:16; 26; 27; 16:7

➤ God the Father invites us to cast all our anxieties upon Him, for He cares for us... 1 Pt 5:7

Point: There is no comfort or peace for those without Christ... Isa 48:22; Jer 6:14

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 = *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

3. Strengthening Hope in God due to the Brevity of Life

Note: Life is very brief... Ps 90:10, 12

➤ Human life is like a mere shadow... Ps 144:4; Ecc 6:12

➤ Man is but a stranger and sojourners in this world... 1 Chron 29:15

➤ All that we possess is entrusted to us by God as stewards of His creation... Ps 39:4-8; 1 Chron 29:11-16

➤ Do not precede God's providence in your life...

James 4:13-17 = *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin*

➤ Do not boast about what you have...

Luke 12:15-21 (v. 20) = *But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’*

Reminders and Challenges:

(a) It is good to be prudent in life, but remember that all the blessings we receive are entrusted to us by God to be used for His glory... 1 Pt 4:10

(b) Life is brief, so use it for God – follow His will... Ps 90:12

(c) Trust in God, not in His blessings – give thanks for all His blessings... Jer 17:7; Rom 1:21

(d) Be certain of your salvation... 2 Pt 1:10

(e) After death comes judgment – have you repented and placed your faith in Christ alone? – Heb 9:27

(f) Walk in holiness... 1 Pt 1:16; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Jn 3:3

(g) Preach the good news of salvation... Mt 28:18-20; 2 Tim 4:2

Comfort, peace, and strength are found only in the finished work of Christ, His resurrection, and hope for His Second Coming.