

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Hope or No Hope

Introduction

I live on the west coast of Canada in a city called Abbotsford, some forty miles east of Vancouver. If an individual keeps traveling east they come to the town of Chilliwack and then beyond that there is a town called "Hope". A jester once said that if one kept driving east they would be "beyond hope". They did not realize that when lifted to a spiritual level, how true their expression was. While an individual lives on this earth they are "without hope" and those who die unsaved are without hope for all eternity. Such ones are often very lovely, wonderful neighbors, and conscientious consistent church goers. No one could ever doubt their genuineness. However, they have never been repentant of dependance on their good works to gain God's favour. Their understanding is that the works they do and religious rituals they devoutly perform, will gain them merit at the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:11). Tragically for them, they have failed to realize that they are insulting God by belittling the sacrifice of His Son, and trying to merit salvation by depending on Christ and their works. God says that is not the way, for Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6). He did not say, I am the way and when combined with your works is the way to Heaven. Indeed, God said, and one can read it for themselves, "By grace are ye saved, through faith," and then adds, "and that not of yourselves (works): it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). In effect, to not believe this you are calling God a liar. To such God declares, they are "condemned already" (Jn. 3:18). Even while alive in this present world, they are living "having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). This expression "having no hope" leads to several questions:

- a) What is meant by "hope?"
- b) What is meant by "no hope?"

What Does "Hope" Mean?

As I sit here in my study I hope to go to meet with the saints in Chilliwack in the morning. I could say to them, "I hope to see you tomorrow", but it is only a "hope", that is, I have no assurance of being in Chilliwack in the morning or being with the saints. Thank God the word He uses does not mean an ideal anticipation, wanting something to be true without any foundation for assurance of it happening. The word God uses indicates a secure anticipation, that of which there is no doubt, therefore to be without hope, or to have no hope means one has not the secure anticipation of either salvation or being with Christ in eternal glory for ever. Personally, I would never be satisfied living having zero assurance of salvation and eternal bliss.

What is meant by "No Hope"?

George Bernard Shaw is perhaps most renowned as a free thinker and liberal philosopher. In his last writings we read, "The science to which I pinned my faith is bankrupt. Its counsels, which should have established the millennium, led,

instead, directly to the suicide of Europe. I believed them once. In their name I helped to destroy the faith of millions of worshippers in the temples of a thousand creeds. And now they look at me and witness the great tragedy of an atheist who has lost his faith.” He was a man without hope, the blackness of his spirit cries out in his words but there is no responding words of comfort to a man with “no hope”.

When writing to the saints at Ephesus and reminding them that being Gentiles, the same as we are, the holy apostle wrote, “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh . . . that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:11-12). It is a description so dreadful that it ought to drive every saint to their knees in true intercession, and every individual depending on their own religious rituals and spiritual endeavors to tremble. No matter what church one belongs to or position in the church, if that person has never accepted Christ as the only way of salvation, God’s word over them stands written, “Having no hope and without God in the world”. Every breath they take is one less and draws them closer to eternal judgment. Every beat of their heart brings them closer to death, the casket and the grave. They face eternity every day, “having no hope and without God in the world”. We live for a scant fleeting years and year after year, month after month, the sound reverberates like thunder through the mountains, “No hope and without God in the world”. Day and night there is no rest, when watching the sports or earthly mirth, or fixation on responsibilities of life or plans for the vacationing future, the words never stop. They roll round and round in the mind giving sleepless nights and a seeking for some way to still the words of no mercy, “Having no hope and without God in the world.”

- a) Then there comes the realization, “If I die without hope and without God in the world” what will happen in the next world? The answer is clear, to die having no hope and without God in this present world will assuredly result in being without hope and without God in the next!! What does this mean? It means that the individual who lives “having no hope and without God in this world” will be banished from God and cast into Hell for all eternity. For all ones life they had rejected the only way of salvation, perhaps they mocked it or held it in disdain because of what others had done, then for all eternity they will realize how foolish they were. The free gift of deliverance from eternal night was open and freely offered to them but they refused it, then there will be no salvation for such an one.

I have been to several funerals of those who lived having no hope and without God in the world. At one such funeral, a godless man himself going to hell, got up and said that the individual in the casket was up there playing a round of golf, having a drink in the heavenly bar. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have hear it said, “When you feel the soft breeze touch your face, that will be me”, or that the individual is up there having a party with their friends who have gone before. I tell everyone that on the basis of the scripture of truth, such is not the case. While that man says such things the individual is languishing in the torments of eternal night. They are remembering the opportunities they had, the verses of scripture they knew. They perhaps will do something they never had time for on earth, they would pray to God to stop their loved ones from coming into this place of torment. Such was the case when the rich man found himself in hell and cried, “I pray thee therefore, Father, that thou wouldst send him to my father’s house; for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment” (Lk. 16:27, 28). Loved ones are only deceiving themselves by such deception for God declares the loved ones have no hope, no hope of ever seeing their loved ones again, no hope of their loved ones ever escaping the judgment of God, no hope of them ever having the Holy Spirit prompt them for to accept salvation, no hope for them of an ending of the judgment, no hope for them of a light at the end of a tunnel. In one hundred years from the moment of death they will still be in anguish, in one thousand years, when this world is no more, when there is no more time they will still languishing and gnashing their teeth and for the loved ones, no hope.

[An individual can be assured of the “hope of eternal life”](#)

What a blessedness it is to know that:

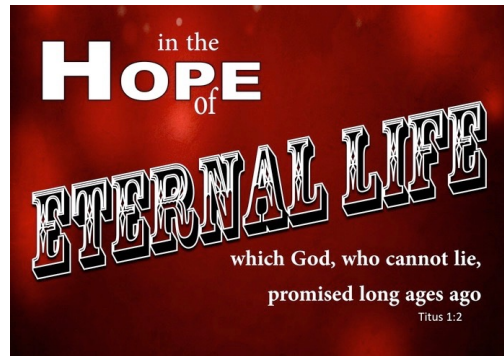
- a) Never again will they feel they have to work for salvation. The work has all been done and done to God’s satisfaction.
- b) Never again will they ever go to sleep wondering where they will be if this was their last night on earth. They can be assured of salvation, being with God and Christ, and dwelling in the sunshine of eternal bliss for evermore.

Only the individual themself can accept the free gift of salvation, no one can do it for them. It is a conscious decision to turn from their works on which they are depending, to completely depending on Christ alone and His eternally finished work (Jn. 19:30). From their heart they can acknowledge to God that:

- a) They are a guilty sinner (Rom. 3:23)
- b) They need deliverance from sins power and penalty
- c) They can do nothing, Christ has done it all and put their faith and trust in Christ and His work at Calvary (1 Cor. 15:3).
- d) They accept the free gift of salvation.

Then, and only then, the individual has the blessed assurance of eternal life and will never be “without hope and without God,” and never be without salvation and God in eternity, “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish” (Jn. 10:28).

. . . *Rowan Jennings*



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