

Hope – Pt 2 Hope the scriptures of truth

Last week we began a new topic on "hope". We showed from the scriptures that (1) faith is linked to hope, (2) hope includes patient waiting, (3) faith and hope are in things that are unseen. Today we establish that (1) the substance of our hope is the scriptures, (2) the hope of Israel was in the Lord, (3) we have hope in the gospel, and (4) we have hope in eternal life.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. Substance of our hope is the scriptures (as we concluded last week)

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom.15: 4).

From which we receive all things that we hope in – detailed in points 2, 3, and 4.

2. The hope of Israel was in the Lord.

"For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you], and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain" (Acts 28:20).

The "hope of Israel" – which Jeremiah identified was the Lord (Jer.17: 13) is fulfilled in Christ and Paul was bound with chains for that hope.

3. We have hope of the gospel

"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister" (Col.1: 23).

4. We have hope of eternal life

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Tit.1: 2). See also Tit.3: 7 – c.f. – "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven" (Col 1:5), and 2Cor 5:1 "if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God...eternal in the heavens".

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

There is an evangelist from BCNZ that is always on about the apathy in the church for evangelism and he gives every reason under the sun for why, whilst maintaining his use of corrupt copies of the scriptures based on the latest scholarly research.

Question to think about.

Why do so many Christians struggle to evangelise – and so give a reason for the hope that is in them (1Pet.3: 15)?

Our answer from the scriptures.

The majority of Christians use one of 200-plus corrupt copies of the scriptures and therefore their hope in them is fragile because it is founded on error, But, when we stand on the truth of the holy scriptures – the English text of the 1611 Authorised Bible where the words "are pure words", without error, then the substance of our hope has a strong foundation. Therefore, when moved by the Spirit of God to evangelise the lost we have "certainty of the words of truth" (Prov.22: 21), and confidence that when we say – "thus saith the Lord" from the scriptures – we proclaim a message of hope in the Lord, hope of the gospel, and hope of eternal life.