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Hope – Pt 4 & final – Hope makes us not ashamed of Christ!

Last week we established from the scriptures that (1) we hope that Christ would be magnified in our body, (2) Christ in you, the hope of glory, and (3) we have hope in our Lord Jesus Christ such that we hope in our own resurrection. In this study we establish that (1) we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith, (2) Tribulation works patience, which works experience, which works hope, and (3) Hope makes us not ashamed.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. We through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith” (Gal.5: 5).

“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).

2. Tribulation works patience, works experience which works hope.

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope” (Rom.5: 3 & 4).

“But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” (Rom 8:25).

3. Hope makes us not ashamed.

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Rom.5: 5). See also Phil.1:20.

“Uphold me according unto thy word...and let me not be ashamed of my hope” (Ps. 119: 116). “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (2Tim.1: 8).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

When I was a “pew-sitter” in the Presbyterian church, I called myself a Christian, I sung in the church choir, I read the Good News Bible, I prayed, yet I did not know what the gospel was, and I was ashamed of speaking to people about the Lord Jesus.

Question to think about.

Our question from last week – why are many in the church so apathetic in sharing the gospel with others – let us answer that question in the context of this study?

Our answer from the scriptures.

- i) if a person is a Christian in name only – i.e. – a pew-sitter, and does not have the Spirit of God within them then they will not wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. They **need** a Christian with the knowledge of the gospel to evangelise them!
- ii) If a person is weak in the faith (and we know that faith is linked with hope) then they will have a weak hope and therefore, likely to struggle to share Christ with others, They **need** – tribulation, which works patience, which works experience, which works hope – which maketh us not ashamed. Paul said – “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation” (Rom.1: 16). .
- iii) If a person sees themselves as strong in faith, then perhaps they should read – Pt 2 of this study, because the only other reason of an unwillingness to evangelise is they use a corrupt copy of the scriptures which effects the substance for their hope, hence their hope is fragile. They **need** the 1611 Authorised Bible, the holy scriptures. Let us remember – hope makes us not ashamed!