

H.O.P.E.

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TEXT: [Pro_10:28](#), "The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish."

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is easy to speak of hope, but to really have the hope of Scripture requires having a substantial faith.
 - a. Man must believe that God wants to help him.
 - (1). Too many feel that God does not care about them, that they are insignificant in His eyes.
 - (2). However, Scripture shows that God is willing to--and more than that *wants to*--help anyone who will come to Him and make request of Him.
 - (a). "Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light" ([Mat_11:28-30](#)).
 - (b). "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" ([1Pe_5:6-7](#)).
 - (c). "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" ([Rev_3:17-18](#)).
 - b. Man must believe that God is capable of helping!
 - (a). "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" ([1Jn_3:22](#)).
 - (b). "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in

- heaven give good things to them that ask him?" ([Mat_7:7-11](#)).
- (c). "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" ([Php_4:13](#)).
- (d). "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose" ([Rom_8:28](#)).
- (e). "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" ([Mat_21:22](#)).
2. In this lesson, we wish to take an extremely positive and yet reasonable look at hope to see why the Bible says, "The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness:" ([Pro_10:28](#)) and why Paul could tell the Thessalonians, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" ([1Th_4:13](#)).
3. Let us consider hope in the form of an acrostic, noting that hope offers H-elpfulness, affords O-pportunity, obtains P-eacefulness, and achieves E-ndurance.

I. H: OFFERS H-ELPFULNESS THAT IS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL.

- A. "That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" ([Heb_6:18-19](#)).
- B. "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" ([Tit_3:7](#)).
- C. God's helpfulness motivated the Psalmist to write [Psa_42:1-11](#); note especially [Psa_42:5](#), [Psa_42:11](#), which say, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and *why* art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him *for* the help of his countenance. ... Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God."

II. O: AFFORDS O-PPORTUNITY THAT IS PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

- A. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" ([1Th_5:8](#)).
- B. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" ([1Pe_3:15](#)).
- C. The opportunity of salvation is a living hope that inspires man to be obedient and to share that opportunity with others ([1Pe_1:3-4](#), "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance

incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,").

1. Paul showed the link of hope between God's grace and man's obedience ([2Th_2:16-17](#), "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.").

III. P: OBTAINS P-EACEFULNESS THAT IS TEMPORAL AND ETERNAL.

- A. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" ([Rom_15:13](#)).
- B. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" ([1Co_15:19](#)).
- C. This temporal and eternal peace "which passeth all understanding" and "shall keep" the Christian's heart and mind "through Christ Jesus" ([Php_4:7](#)) was addressed by David when he wrote to God, "... I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory. Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. ... *it is* good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works" ([Psa_73:23-26](#), [Psa_73:28](#)).

IV. E: ACHIEVES E-NDURANCE THAT IS ASSURED AND REALIZED.

- A. "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;" ([1Th_1:3](#)).
- B. "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" ([Heb_3:6](#)).
- C. "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:" ([Heb_6:11](#)).
- D. Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to endure because of what God had already accomplished through Christ ([2Th_1:7-12](#))--the same encouragement can motivate Christians today in spite of what they may be having to endure.

CONCLUSION:

1. Is it not wonderful that if we are Christians we have reason to hope!
 - a. I say "if we are Christians" because those who are outside of Christ are said by Paul to have "no hope" ([Eph_2:12](#)).
2. Today, we have noted that hope offers H-elpfulness, affords O-pportunity, obtains P-eacefulness, and achieves E-ndurance.

3. Let us close with three questions:
 - a. Are you a Christian?
 - b. Are you a faithful Christian?
 - c. Are you a faithful Christian of great faith?