

Hope, a new plan!

I. Introduction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Rom 15:13

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jer 29:11

Hope; (*elpis*) expectation of good, hope

in the Christian sense- joyful, confident expectation of eternal salvation

Hope: to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen be true

Plan; a thought, a plan, a purpose

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A. Path to God is narrow and hard and very few follow it-

Our need for hope- You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you

once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the

power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were

by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Our hope in God- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

A new plan- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:6

A new way- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

A new future- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph 2:8

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B. Leaving Bill's bible bus-

Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in **Christ Jesus**, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:5

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Col 3:1

If; a primary particle of conditionality; if, whether, on the assumption or condition that

II. Jesus is God's plan from before time-

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him **before the foundation** of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as **a plan** for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Eph 1:3

Plan and purpose of God= a thought, a plan, a purpose

what God has intended, initiated, is doing and will become reality

Plan; (webster)a method for achieving an end

a detailed formulation of a program of action an orderly arrangement of parts of an overall design or objective

A. Real love demands action-

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. Jn 3:16

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Rom 5:8

Altruistic; having or showing an unselfish concern for the welfare of others

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Heb 12:1

III. God's has been clearly revealed His plan to us-

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. II Tim 3:16

As it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand

the things freely given us by God. I Cor 2:7

Inspired: breathed by the Spirit of God

Inerrant: free from error

Immutable: not capable or subject to change

A. God's plan is good, acceptable and perfect (holy)-

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes. Jer 29:11

Inspired: breathed by the Spirit of God

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Immutable: not capable or subject to change

B. God supernatural plan is beyond our human understanding and reasoning-

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Rom 11:33-12:1

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isa 55:8

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C. God's plan, His ways, and His word are not open for debate-

The LORD said to Job: Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the LORD and said: "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further. Job 40:1

You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? Isa 29:15

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. Gen 3:1

"Never interpret these words apart from the One Who has written them." Oswald Chamber, My utmost for His highest. November 3

III. God reveals Himself, His plan and Himself to the world-

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. Rom 1:17

A. God implants the knowledge of Himself, His ways and His truth into our hearts and minds-

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. Heb 11:1

Assurance; hypostasis- thing put under, substructure, that which has foundation, is firm

Conviction; elegchos- a proof, that by which a thing is proved or tested

IV. Summary and application

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Mat 7:12

If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3
For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. I Cor 1:18

The Dominant Worldview Embraced by American Adults:

- Biblical Worldview 6%
- Secular Humanism 2%
- Postmodernism 1%
- Syncretism 88%
- Biblical Christianity in the general population 2%

Syncretism: the combination of different forms of belief or practice

67% of parents in 2022 claimed to be Christians. 3% had biblical worldview