

## The Bible 20/20 Week 47: “The Power of Hope” (11-29-20)

**Reading this week:** Philippians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians

**Review: Series** - Rediscovering Power of the Church (Gospel, Love, Community, Grace)

**Introduction:** In a world that feels increasingly hopeless, this is truly an age old problem . . .

### Proverbs 13:12 (ESV)

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

### Psalms 27:13-14 (NKJV)

(13) I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. (14) Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

**Note:** The source of true Hope is only found in Jesus - if we stop chasing for it elsewhere and trust in Him, we will receive courage and find new strength for our hearts!

**Today: “The Power of Hope”** - 3 Aspects of the Power of Hope: Heaven, Glory, and a Fruitful Life

## 1) Hope of Heaven

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (ESV)

(13) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

**Note:** There was already a growing worry that it was taking too long for Jesus to return, and they feared for those who had already died - as if they had missed out!

**After a brief description of Christ’s return, Paul completes the thought with these words . . .**

### 1 Thessalonians 4:18 (ESV)

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Note:** We are meant to be encouraged in the waiting & loss of this life, that Heaven is real.

**And more than that, it is our true home. Look how Paul closes his letter to the Philippians . . .**

### Philippians 3:20-4:1 (NKJV)

(20) **For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (4:1) Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

**Note:** Heaven is not just some wishful thought that things will be better later. It’s also a reminder that the reason we realize how broken this world and my life can be is because we were made for something more!

- **Heaven makes sense of a broken world** - we don’t fit here because it’s not our true home!
- **When things are hard** - remember that heaven is real, and it is our true home!

**The Hope of Heaven** should not detach us from this present reality, but fill our time here with purpose . . .

### **Colossians 1:3-6 (ESV)**

(3) We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, (4) since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, (5) because of **the hope laid up for you in heaven**. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, (6) which has come to you, as **indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing**—as **it also does among you**, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth

**Note:** Look what the hope of heaven does - it bears fruit and grows among us!

- **Friends - our theology doesn't end with Heaven as the ultimate conclusion.**
- **Heaven is our starting point, our true home, and it anchors us to live this life with purpose!**

## **2) Hope of Glory**

**Continuation of Paul's opening to the Colossians . . .**

**Colossians 1:13-20** (Paul's declaration about Christ & his work)

- Delivered us from darkness, redeemed and forgave us
- Creator of all, rules all, and holds all things together
- Head of the church - and firstborn of the resurrected (Hope of Heaven)
- Reconciling the world to God - brining peace through his death

### **Colossians 1:21-23a (ESV)**

(21) And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, (22) he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, **in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him**, (23) if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from **the hope of the gospel that you heard**

**Note:** Jesus is deeply invested in our healing, wholeness, and growth! Heaven is not just about surviving and escaping this world. It's about all things being made new - including the condition of my soul!

vs. 23 - Paul is connecting my steadfast hope in Jesus here and now, with future glory and holiness!

This revelation of Jesus was made known to the saints of old, that they may share it with all who would hear.

### **Colossians 1:27 (ESV)**

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**.

**Note:** The culmination of the glorious work of Jesus, and the hope of the gospel shared with all, leads Paul to these words - **Christ in you is the hope of glory!**

Let's explore this phrase more fully . . .

**Colossians 1:25-27 (NLT)**

(25) God has given me the responsibility of serving His church by proclaiming His entire message to you.

(26) This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. (27) For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing His glory.

**Notes: (See Next Page)**

- **Riches** – wealth & abundance of Christ (the gospel is lavish!)
- **Glory** – thought or opinion or recognition of . . . splendor, honorable, praiseworthy!
  - Giving glory to God is ascribing to Him His full recognition.
  - The true glory of man, on the other hand, is the ideal condition in which God created mankind.
- **Riches & Glory are for me!** They are available to me, and here is how . . .
- **Mystery / Secret** – It's an open secret . . . few find it, but it's available for the finding!
- **Christ lives in me** – (look at vs. 25 – this is the entire message of Jesus!)

**Encourage this extra study and then move to point 3!**

**Homework (extra notes): John 15:7-15** - Let's allow Jesus to tell us how this works by listening in to what he said to his disciples in the midst of his last night with them . . .

**John 15:7-15 (ESV)**

(7) If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (9) As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. (10) If you **keep** my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (11) These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13) Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (14) You are my friends if you do what I command you. (15) No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

**Notes:** Christ in me grows through long & loving relationship.

- **See the importance of The Word** – it's essential to understanding what matters & living accordingly
- Receiving the **entire message** (as Paul wrote about in Col. 1:25) produces much fruit!
- God's Love & Obedience work hand in hand
- The by-product of a life of loving obedience is . . . Joy!
- Vs. 15 – no longer a mystery, Jesus calls us "friends" & makes known to us all He has heard!

### 3) Hope of a Fruitful Life

#### Philippians 1:20-24 (ESV)

(20) as it is my eager expectation and **hope** that I will not be at all ashamed, but **that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.** (21) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (22) If I am to live in the flesh, **that means fruitful labor** for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. (23) I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (24) But to remain in the flesh is **more necessary on your account.**

**Note:** Hope offers 2 good choices (not 1 hopeful escape): Heaven's goodness & Earth's purpose

**If you want real meaning in life, devout yourself to work that lasts - invest in the life of others!**

**This is what Paul discovered . . .**

#### 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (ESV)

(19) For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?  
(20) For you are our glory and joy.

**Note:** A fruitful life is a life of hope, glory, and joy!

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 9-10 (ESV)

(1) Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you **do so more and more . . .** (9) Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, (10) for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to **do this more and more**

**Note:** Hope leads to a growing and fruitful life, as we share the love of God with a world in need.

**Conclusion:** Do not lose heart, hold onto Jesus and the hope He offers - remember your true home, the glory he is working in you as you abide in him, and share this hope by loving well - the fruit is worth it!

**Read as a closing prayer . . .**

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 (ESV)

(15) So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (16) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, (17) comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.