

High Hopes Session 9 – The Blessed Hope

I. Introduction/Review

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) – *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (GWT) – *I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope*

Series Review

- A. God Wants us to have hope for the future.
- B. Our future here and in Eternity – all in Him.
- C. Hope will always face opposing winds.
- D. Hope is the blueprint of our faith.
- E. The Second Wind of Hope.
- F. The Hope/Prayer Connection

II. The Believers Hope

Those who trust in the Lord have a sense of hope that the world doesn't have.

A. Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NKJV) – ⁷*Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. ⁸For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit*

1. **In the Lord and in His Word, we find hope in the midst of all kinds of circumstances.**
 - a. Overcoming promises.
 - b. Provision promises.
 - c. Peace promises.
 - d. Healing promises.
 - e. Family promises.
 - f. Strength Promises.
 - g. All of these promises build HOPE in the midst of trying times.

B. There is another level of Hope that is to be experienced by every believer, *THE BLESSED HOPE*.

1. **Titus 2:11-13 (NLT)** – ¹¹*For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, ¹³while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.*

KJV – Looking for the blessed hope.

WHILE EVERY BELIEVER NEEDS TO KNOW HOW TO LIVE LIFE; WE SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THE ETERNAL PERSEPCTIVE

- a. Every believer should keep their mind set FORWARD.
- b. Forward = to make progress toward – we are in a progression
The church is moving forward
The church is moving toward something

- c. WE are moving toward something AWESOME.
- d. WE may get so caught up in living live here, that we forget about what is coming – what is ahead.
- e. This blessed hope – connected to the future – to the return of Jesus – to eternity with Jesus – was the GREATEST LEVEL OF HOPE that the early church experienced.
- f. Scriptures about the coming of the second coming of the Lord.

Acts 1:10-11 (NKJV) – ¹⁰*And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”*

1 John 3:1-2 (ERV) – ¹*The Father has loved us so much! This shows how much he loved us: We are called children of God. And we really are his children. But the people in the world don’t understand that we are God’s children, because they have not known him. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God. We have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him. We will see him just as he is.*

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) – ²⁰*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV) – ¹⁶*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be*

caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

C. Of All the hope that we have – never lose the hope for the future! The blessed hope – *Our hope for the future*

1. This Hope Will:

- a. Keep you in faith.
- b. Keep you moving forward.
- c. Keep you in peace.
- d. Keep you in joy.
- e. Keep you in Strength.
- f. It will KEEP YOU!

I need this blessed hope – to KEEP ME in all of life's circumstances

2. This BLESSED HOPE for the future:

- a. Kept the early church on course.
- b. Kept them when they were ostracized.
- c. Kept them when they were threatened.
- d. Kept them when they were beaten.
- e. Kept them when they were slain.
- f. Kept Stephen when he was being stoned.
- g. Kept Peter when he was crucified up-side-down.
- h. Kept the Apostle Paul through so many trials that he was torn betwixt staying or going.
- i. It will keep you!

3. Your Future is Bright!

- a. Your best days are ahead.
- b. God's plan includes the remainder of your days on earth.
- c. God's plan includes your future days in eternity.