

THESE THREE REMAIN

Inductive Study on FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

(STUDY 2 – HOPE)

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE - these three remain but the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). In this a **3-part** study series we will seek to define these gifts of God's grace to us as believers and what it looks like for each to be active and growing in our lives.

HOPE: DEFINED

READ 1 Timothy 1:1 and Colossians 1:27 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

- circle every reference to *hope*.

1:1 – Who is our hope?

1:27 – What does His dwelling in us guarantee?

READ 1 Peter 1:3-5:

- circle the phrase *living hope*.
- underline the word *inheritance or salvation*.

1:3 – Why is the Father to be praised?

1:4 – What are we hoping for?

1:5 – How are we being guarded (kept) to receive it in the last time?

Heirs - God promised to bless Abraham and that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed. God guaranteeing His promise with an oath. The promise fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham. The heirs of God's promised inheritance all who have taken refuge in Him by faith (Genesis 22:15-18, Galatians 3:15-18;25-29, Hebrews 6:13-20).

READ Hebrews 6:17-20:

- circle every reference to *hope (including pronouns)*.
- put a cross beside every reference to *Jesus*.

6:18 – Why did God guarantee His promise with an oath?

6:19 – What is the certain *hope of salvation* for us?

6:19 – Where is our hope anchored?

6:20 – Who has anchored it there?

6:20 – What has He become for us there?

READ Hebrews 7:23-25:

7:25 – How is Jesus able to save to the uttermost (fully and finally) those who draw near to God through Him?

HOPE: APPLIED

READ 1 Peter 1:13:

1:13 – What *two things* are we to do to set our hope fully on the grace that will be ours?

PREPARING OUR MINDS - HEAVENLY MINDEDNESS

READ Philippians 3:20-21:

3:20 – Where is our citizenship? Who do we await from there?

3:21 – What is our hope (confident expectation) when He comes?

READ Revelation 21:1-4:

21:3 – What will be at the centre of life in the New Jerusalem?

READ Revelation 22:3-4:

22:3-4 – What more do we learn about life in the holy city?

GOD'S FACE – “*To see God's face will be to know who God is in his personal being. This will be the heart of humanity's eternal joy in their eternal worship of God.*” – Richard Bauckham

GOD'S NAME – “*...to bear the name of Christ in their forehead is to say they reflect the glory of Christ, which is to say they bear the image of the glorified Christ.*” – Meredith Kline

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this..." – C.S. Lewis – Mere Christianity

BE SOBER

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5;8-9:

- circle every reference to the *day of the Lord / day*.
- underline the phrase *be sober*.

5:2 – How will the *day of the Lord* come?

5:4-5 – Who will that day *not* surprise?

5:8-9 – What are we who belong to the day to do? Why?

SOBER – STRONGS G3525 - *nēphō* – to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, circumspect.

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What things *dull* or *diminish* your focus on the grace that will one day be yours?

HOPE FOR HOLINESS

READ 1 John 2:29-3:3:

- circle every reference to *hopes*.
- underline the phrase *he appears*.

2:29 – What is true of everyone born of God?

3:1 – How has the Father loved us?

3:2 – What is our *confident expectation* at Christ's appearing?

3:3 – What does everyone who thus hopes in Him do?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What areas of your life do you need to clean up?

HOPE IN FAILURE

READ 1 John 2:1-2:

- circle every reference to *sin / sins*.
- put a cross beside every reference to *Jesus (including pronouns)*.

2:1a – What was the apostle John’s purpose in writing?

2:1b – What do we have when we do?

2:2 – How is Jesus able to advocate for us when we sin?

PROPITIATION – The death of Jesus on the cross for our sins, enduring the wrath of God that we deserved, so that all who take refuge in Him could be delivered from it.

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What sinful failure still haunts you? Who has been punished in your place for it?
- Ask the Spirit to help you live as a forgiven and beloved child of God, forever accepted in Christ.

HOPE TO ENDURE

READ Romans 5:1-5:

- circle every reference to *hope*.
- underline every reference to *rejoice*.

5:1-2 – What do we now have as those *justified by faith*?

5:2-3a – What do we rejoice in?

5:3-4 – What do we know that helps to rejoice in our sufferings?

What does our proven character in trials strengthen?

5:5 – How can we be sure that our confidence in Christ will never put us to shame?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- **READ** James 1:2-4 - why are we to let steadfastness (endurance) have its full effect in us?
- **READ** Romans 8:28-30 – what is the *good* that God is working to complete in us (v29)?
- How confident can we be that in the end we will be like Jesus (glorified), God's work in us complete (v30)?
- **READ** Romans 8:35-39 – what can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord?

REFLECTION

There is talk at times of the merit of 'best before' or 'use by' dates. But praise God that for all who belong to Christ there is a glorious inheritance reserved for us that will never go off, turn sour, or lose its freshness and that we by God's power are being kept now through faith to receive it.

A glorious inheritance of no more sin, sickness, or death. The whole created order made new, and we will know the joy of a life at home with God, beholding Him face-to-face, fully conformed to the image of Christ, and worshipping Him forever.

And it is this hope of the Gospel that frees us to love others now, even our enemies, and to accept all the losses of life knowing that what is coming is far better, our present sufferings not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed to us. A hope sure and steadfast, anchored in heaven, from where we eagerly await our God and Saviour Jesus Christ, which leads to living lives before Him now of holiness and love.

So let us hold fast our confidence to the end. For God is faithful He will do it.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

1 TIMOTHY 1:1 / COLOSSIANS 1:27

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope,
²⁷ 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.

1 PETER 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

HEBREWS 6:17-20

¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

HEBREWS 7:23-25

²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he [Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

1 PETER 1:13

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

REVELATION 21:1-4

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

REVELATION 22:3-4

³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-5;8-9

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security", then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 JOHN 2:29-3:3

²⁹If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practises righteousness has been born of him. **3** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 JOHN 2:1-2

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

ROMANS 5:1-5

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

JAMES 1:2-4

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

ROMANS 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

ROMANS 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.