

## **Christ, Our Hope, Pt. 1**

**John 14:18-20**

**PowerPoint Presentation: None**

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**SermonAudio blurb:**

### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Hope is something that is greatly lacking in this world of ours.
- B. As the elections begin to become clarified it pains me to see the hope people are placing upon the candidates.
  - 1. They will fail us. They must, for they are humans.
  - 2. We must have a better hope, one that is not just a vaporous belief that things will be better, but a hope that is secure and true. This world is not ours, therefore it is foolish to hope in it.
    - a. Psalm 33:18, “Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness.”
    - b. Psalm 42:11 speaks of David rebuking his heart for it was thinking wrongly, “Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance, and my God.”
    - c. Romans 5:1-6.
    - d. Paul tells the Galatian church that they are in great trouble. They were trying to be justified and be made righteous by the law. That was a deadly error to repent of. Instead, he says in Gal. 5:5, “For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.”
      - (1) The believer is to be content to walk by faith. To rest in the Spirit’s work within and through us.
      - (2) We look with hope of the certainty that we will be made righteous, not by what we have done, but by what Christ already has done.
    - e. Hebrews 6:17-20 says it the best, “In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the

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unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast. . . .”

- C. In John 14-16 we have the most extensive teaching on the person of the Holy Spirit. In these chapters and elsewhere we find that the Holy Spirit:
1. Gave us the Word.
  2. Illumines the mind.
  3. Regenerates the heart.
  4. So the Lord promised us another Helper in verse 17.
    - a. One like Himself. This was a double blessing for now the disciples would not merely have Christ, who would dwell within them, but also the Spirit.
    - b. This Helper was called the Spirit of Truth, literally the Spirit of THE Truth.
      - (1) The term “truth” is used in two ways: The person of Jesus Christ, who said of Himself, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” And also the written, revealed Word of God, of which Christ said in John 17, “Thy Word is Truth.”
      - (2) When He spoke here of the Spirit of the truth, He was actually referring back to verse 6 that said that He was the Truth. This Spirit he was sending was the Truth’s Spirit.
      - (3) This is why the Spirit is called the Spirit of God but also the Spirit of Christ in the Bible.
        - (a) He is called this because He was sent by Christ.
        - (b) The Spirit’s task is to glorify Christ.
    - c. The Spirit was to take that place of the Lord in the lives of the believers. And this was a good thing, not a bad thing.
- D. Well, now the Lord turns His words back to His own work in verses 18-20 (read). It is here that we see again that Christ is our hope. This is seen in two key facts:
1. He will keep us as His own.
  2. He is our life.

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## II. Christ, Our Hope.

A. Fact #1, Christ will keep us as His own, 18-19a.

1. Jesus sees us as little children.

a. This takes us back to 13:33, where He called them, “My little children.”

(1) Shows a tender care and affection.

(2) Also shows that we are dependent upon Him for our care and protection.

b. This idea of us being Christ’s children is interesting to consider.

(1) In 13:33 it does not say, “My Father’s little children.” Rather, it is “My little children.”

(2) God the Father is the common way the Bible makes to be our Father. Therefore we pray, “Our Father, who is in heaven...”

(3) But in this passage we seen something startling, Christ is also, in some way, our Father too.

(4) Remember how He said in verse 9 . . . ?

(5) Christ displays for us the Father. This is so critical to understand. Jesus Christ, God the Son, will always direct us to see God the Father better and more gloriously.

(6) To know Christ is to know the Father. He is the One who brings us into to true, eternal fellowship with God.

(7) But to gain a knowledge of God can be a distressing thing for us humans. How do we come to know about God? If we can’t see Him can we really know Him?

(a) Then we begin to have our eyes opened by the Spirit. No person ever has come to know God except by the work of the Holy Spirit in their heart.

(8) These are distressing for they show us how different we are to God. How can we know Him? Perhaps if we were to see Him!

He is infinite, but we are finite. He is eternal, but we are temporal. He is unchangeable, but we are constantly changing. He is wisdom, but we are foolishness. He is power, but we are weakness. He is goodness, but we are evil. He is holiness, but we are perversity. He is justice,

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but we are injustice. (“The Christlikeness of God,” *Reformation & Revival*, Vol. 7, No. 2, James McGoldrick, p. 70.)

- (9) So we, like Thomas say, “Show us the Father.” And Christ shows us Himself.
  - (a) As both God and Man He is the only one who has the right to reveal God.
  - (b) In a mysterious way that we cannot understand the Father was pleased to cause the fullness of deity to dwell in human form.
  - (c) Therefore, if we want to see the Father, we must see Him through Jesus Christ. This is why the question of whether the Christian and the Muslim worship the same god is dangerously foolish.
  - (d) He is the clearest, most perfect revelation of the Father.
    - i) We can glory in the fatherhood of God because we are His Children.
    - ii) How? Because we are safe in Christ. We come to the Father through the blood of Christ and He welcomes us as sons. We are adopted by faith into the family of God.
- c. How, then do we come to Jesus? Matthew 18:4.
  - (1) The setting, vs 1.
  - (2) The example, vs 2. Understand the standing of a child in their society.
  - (3) The lesson, vs. 3.
    - (a) “Converted” means to turn around and go a different way.
    - (b) It was used in Peter’s message to the Jews in Acts 3.
      - i) Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

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- ii) Acts 3:26 “For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”
- (c) Conversion is not repentance, but it is the brother to repentance.
  - i) To repent is to grieve over your sinfulness. To turn away from that sin and reject it.
  - ii) To convert is to now fully turn to Christ and follow Him.
- (d) I might add that this conversion is not something we can do. The word here is in the passive tense. It is something done to us, not what we can do ourselves.
- (e) These men were busy worrying about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus tells them that first they have to get there!
  - i) They have to become like that child.
  - ii) A little child is not given to concerns of power and grandeur. He is simple and trusting. Just as that little child obeyed and came to Jesus, so too, all who wish to be saved must obey and come to Jesus.
    - a) A little child is dependent upon his father.
    - b) A little child is not hypocritical. He is what he is. When a little two year old throws his arms around his mother and says, “I love you mommy!” There is no question of his motive.
- (f) So the call was to come to Christ like a little child. We see him as a Father, one who can save us, love us, and care for us.

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- i) We are not adding Him into our lives, we are rejecting that life that we have and coming only to Him.
    - ii) We become humbled and needy and we see Him as the way to be saved and loved.
  - d. So like little children we come to Jesus, and through we become the Father's little children.
- 2. Jesus was leaving the disciples, but it would not affect His relationship with them.
  - a. He uses a very strong word for "leave." It speaks of abandonment.
  - b. They needed to understand that Jesus was not abandoning them, leaving them to fend for themselves; even though that is exactly what they thought when He died on the Cross.
  - c. But these words would come back to them and prove to be a constant point of encouragement.
  - d. The promise is sure, he will come to them.
    - (1) This is very powerfully said by using the present tense for "come."
    - (2) There is no way to really translate it in the English. He uses the present tense, rather than the future, to drive home the certainty and the nearness of His return.
    - (3) Notice that He is coming to them, not for them.
    - (4) This coming is not the second coming when He returns for His people. It is referring to the time when He rose from the dead.
    - (5) This shows us how key the resurrection is to the Christian. It is not enough to merely believe in the death of Christ. The resurrection is also key.
      - (a) Vs. 19 says that in a very short time the world will no longer see him. Why? Because He would die.
      - (b) But the promise was that they would see Him. When was that?
      - (c) John 20.

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- (d) Here we see His mercy and grace. He would come again to His own to show them that He was the true messiah.
  - (e) That is why the message of the apostles was the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
    - i) A dead savior brings no hope.
    - ii) A living savior who conquered death is a perfect hope. An anchor for the soul.
3. Beloved, it all started with those 11 men.
- a. They were filled with a dread. Perhaps all of this was a mistake. Their Lord is acting and talking in a very frightening way. Perhaps He isn't what they thought, the savior.
  - b. He is killed and they flee. They are scattered like sheep without a shepherd.
  - c. But then He returns to them and they see Him now in an even fuller glory. They worship as they see Him ascend into heaven.
  - d. And then they go out, in the power of the Spirit and preach a message. A message of a crucified man who rose from the dead.
  - e. A message that calls men and women to come to this Jesus and be saved.
  - f. And many of you have done so. You have heard the message, come to Jesus. You came and you were saved.
  - g. But you have not seen Him have you? So why do you have hope?
  - h. It is because for the last 2000 years the message has stayed the same. We are merely repeating what these men first declared. And they declared what our Lord declared to them.
  - i. We have hope for we are part of an unbroken chain of men and women who have come to salvation through Jesus Christ.
  - j. And now we wait, looking for the day we too will see Him. When He comes again for us.

B. Fact #2, Christ is our life, 19b-20 we will consider next week.

## **III. Conclusion.**

A. In Christ we see the Father.

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1. It is our goal here at Missio to be men and women who delight in the Lord. We desire to savor and revel in His glory.
  2. But to enjoy the Father requires us to enjoy Christ.
    - a. In Christ all the characteristics of the Father are seen.
    - b. In Christ we are brought near to the Father and adopted as sons.
  3. So what is God like?
    - a. He is like Jesus Christ in every way.
    - b. To try to see the Father, in any way, apart from the Son, is impossible and blasphemous.
    - c. It would imply that there is some part of God the Father that is not possessed by the Son. But Christ said, to see Him is to see the Father. Not most of the Father, but the Father in fulness.
  4. Our message to this world, my message to you today is that God the Father is seen and known fully and only in Jesus Christ.
    - a. We are to proclaim that message.
    - b. Do you want to know God? Then come to Christ. For as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, **that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...**”
- B. Beloved, glory in God. Love God, and preach His word of salvation to a world that does not know or see God.

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## Community Group Questions

- Pick three or four people to share how they came to Christ. Try for a diversity of people. What has been the challenges and joys since coming to Jesus Christ?
- What must grow in our minds for us to better see ourselves as but children in the Kingdom of God? How does that occur?