

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Christ, Our Hope, Pt. 2

John 14:18-20

Keywords: Hope, Eternity, Resurrection, New Birth

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb:

I. Introduction.

- A. Open your Bibles to 1 Peter 3:14-16.
 - 1. (Point 1) This world is a world driven by an ungodly fear—a fear of man.
 - a. Either afraid of what man might do.
 - b. Or they act and live on the basis of the opinion of man.
 - c. Both are simply different lanes of the same highway that leads to hell.
 - d. And, if you were to strip it all away to look even closer, you would find that this fear is due to the sin of idolatry. There is a hope in something that can't and won't deliver.
 - e. And if you were to strip that sin of idolatry all the way down, the greatest idol of all would be your own heart.
 - (1) The love that you have for your own self eclipses any love you have for the Lord.
 - (2) And as a result, your decisions related to home, family, finances, friends, future, and society are driven by a fear that what you believe you need will not be met.
 - f. Peter says it simply in verse 14
 - 2. (Point 2) The Christian is to be driven by a godly fear of the Lord.
 - a. He is the Lord and you are to establish that fact in your hearts.
 - b. The heart being the fountainhead of all that you do or think. Nothing you do or think is able to circumvent the heart.
 - c. So, by establishing Christ as Lord in your heart, you cause all things that you desire to do, have, or hope in to be defined by Christ.

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3. (Point 3) The Christian's hope is not here.
 - a. This is such an important point but it is simply forgotten by us to often.
 - b. We know the end. Christ shall destroy this world and all of its filth in a storm of fire.
 - c. All that remains is that which is hidden in Christ. That is our hope, a hope in a salvation that, according to 1 Peter 1:4-6
 4. (Point 4) There is the work of evangelism done when we properly hope.
 - a. The believer is not to be uninformed about the things going on in the world. But you also need to interpret those events from the point of the Bible.
 - b. And your hope is not to be upon them.
 - c. And then, as you stand there ultimately unaffected by events, your family, co-workers, and neighbors may look and marvel. For your hope is not like theirs.
 - d. And it is there that you may point them to what is the title of this message today, "Christ, Our Hope."
- B. Well, now the Lord turns His words back to His own work in John 14:18-20. 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.
- C. Fact #1, Christ will keep us as His own, 18-19a.
1. Jesus sees us as little children.
 - a. But in this passage we seen something startling, Christ is also, in some way, our Father too.
 - (1) Remember how He said in verse 9 . . . ?
 - (2) To know Christ is to know the Father.
 - b. How, then do we come to Jesus? Matthew 18:4.
 - (1) As little children we come to Jesus, and we become His little children.

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- (2) And we enter into a care that He gives to us. We are uniquely cared for.
- (3) He keeps us and loves us. We are loved by Him in a perfect way that any parent would love their children.
- (4) Though a husband or wife may fail you. Though friends will forget you. One thing that is assured to all who are children of God, Christ will never abandon you.

Remember the context of why I am preaching these two messages right now. A series so far on marriage. Though much we can learn and grow with regard to marriage the reality is sin happens. Bad marriages, divorce, adultery, rebellion, or never being married all happen to people.

Parenting coming up. Again much we can learn and grow in that series. But sin happens. Parents will hear of how they failed and ache. Children still rebel. Some who long for children never have children.

How do we react? We will sin and be sinned against. This age will never fulfil our longings in the truest sense. It is like Jeremiah, a broken well that holds no water. We will sin and must be a people who repent. But we also need to remember that when we do the “right” thing it doesn’t mean that everything is fixed here and now. The promises of God are ultimately pointing to some other time. And so I want us to be a people who do not lose hope in the faithfulness of God.

- c. And so, just as He promised the disciples that He would come to them very shortly; He also promises us that He will come again.
 - (1) Therefore, Paul tells us in Titus 2, to turn from sin and to, “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.” (2:13)
 - (2) And we can echo the words of John in the book of Revelation. He hears the words of Jesus, who says that He is coming soon to bring joy and eternal life to those who are His, and to punish forever those who have rejected Him. And so it is written in 22:20, “He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” [To which John replies, and you can almost hear a great yearning in his words.] Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”
- D. But there is another aspect to this passage that is even more beautiful and more important for us to consider.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

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1. I find that it is easy for us to be compartmentalized in our living and thinking.
2. We tend to separate things from each other: work from home, home from recreation, friends from family.
3. One major area that cannot be separated from anything is our faith in Christ.
 - a. It must permeate all things.
 - b. And part of this is the idea of being directed and motivated by the Word of God. This is seen in James' statement to be doers of the Word.
 - c. But this alone is not even enough. To be a man of the Bible is something that even non-Christians can do. They can have principles and commands that they live by.
 - d. Even deeper than the Bible for the life of the believer, is a love and delight in the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.
 - e. He is to over-arch all that we do and believe. He is the motivation for all things.
 - f. Yet we can make the error that we have some part of our life apart from Him. That we possess something that is just ours.
 - (1) Money.
 - (2) Time.
 - (3) Desires.
 - (4) Let me give you a quick method of determining if this might be true for you. Ask yourself two simple questions:
 - (a) Do I sin if I do not get it?
 - (b) Am I willing to sin to get it?
 - (5) Now, if there are things in your life that are found in these two questions, the Bible gives you a simple word to call it—idolatry.
4. We are to yearn for the Lord. We are to worship our Lord. We must learn that if we desire anything apart from a love of God it is destined to fail us. Our hope must be only in God.

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E. Well, in light of that statement, I want us to carefully consider John 14:19-20.

II. Christ, Our Hope.

A. Fact #2, Christ is our life, 19b-20.

1. Christ is life itself (19b).

- a. There is a vital connection that every Christian has with their Lord and Savior.
- b. This is why the Bible so frequently uses various imagery to help us see that vital link.
 - (1) Vine-Branches.
 - (2) Shepherd-Sheep.
 - (3) Head-Body.
 - (4) Groom-Bride.
 - (5) Cornerstone-living stones.
- c. Here the connection is with Christ as living and because He lives, we will live.
 - (1) The promise is tremendous, as long as Christ lives, we live.
 - (2) No true Christian can face eternal death. For before that could ever happen Christ must first no longer live.
 - (3) That is part of the joyous truth of the resurrection.
 - (a) Here is 'death' who is our great enemy. All of humanity fears him.

For some believers life will be pleasurable overall. For others it will be a mix. For the rest it will be an unceasing beating of hardship upon heart-ache. But in the end all will face the same enemy, death. But even that is not the end, for it is but the "first death."

- (b) And then we see Christ allow death to overcome Him. We see Him on the cross give up His spirit and die.
- (c) But death could not hold Him. Even death was a creation of God. And Christ is the Lord of creation.

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- i) All things made, whether seen or unseen, must ultimately obey the Lord.
 - ii) So on the third day, as promised, He rose, showing that not even the great enemy of death could destroy Him.
- (d) So, in the book of Revelation John has this great vision of Jesus Christ. And this is what he writes, “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades” (1:18-19).
- d. Christ is the fountain of life. Without Christ, life has no meaning. Which leads us to the second point.

2. **Our life is only because Christ lives (19c).**

- a. There is a gift that comes with believing in Christ
 - (1) Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is **eternal life** [but where is this life found?] in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - (2) This is not just some type of physical life. All humans have that. The life is a life that is located “in Christ Jesus.” The quality of that life is Christ’s life (cf. Col. 3:3-4, “you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”
- b. Christ Himself said that he has come to “that [his people] might have life, and might have it abundantly.”
- c. For the Christian there is a new life that is found in Christ. A full life.
 - (1) As a result of this we can rejoice and have great, boundless hope.
 - (2) We can apply the words of David in Psalm 91 to our new position in Christ.

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Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper, And from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day; Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not approach you.

3. **Our life in Christ is a life of divine fellowship (20).**

- a. There is a blessing in being a Christian. God treats us differently in certain ways.
- b. In verse 19 Jesus said that the world will not see Christ, but they would. Why? Well they are now born of the Spirit and not of fallen, sinful man. They are no longer a "natural man" and therefore receive blessings as such.
 - (1) These disciples were with Christ in the most intimate of ways. They saw Him weary. They saw Him consistently under attack. They heard the troubling words from Him about His impending death. And they saw Him in His humiliation.
 - (2) And that is what the 'world' (meaning unbelievers here) saw too.
 - (3) But what the world did not see was the glory after the resurrection. That was reserved for those who believed in Him.
 - (a) This also shows how God does not work the same way for all.
 - (b) The simple reality is that it was not for the world that Christ rose. It was for His own.
 - (c) It was the blind man in John 9 who was also allowed to see Him when his eyes were opened. But not every blind man was healed and drawn to Christ.

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- (d) Or John 5 and the pool of Bethesda. A man crippled for 38 years healed. But not all who were around him.
- (e) It was Stephen who was able to see Him glorious in heaven just before the final rock crushed the life out of his body. But many a unbeliever has gone to death without that vision.
- (f) We have not seen Him yet.
 - i) Yet in one way we have, through the eyes of faith.
 - ii) As John says in his first letter, “ Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”
(John 3:2)
- c. So in verse 19 there was the promise that they would see Christ again. And we know that it was a reference to the time after He rose from the dead.
- d. Now, in verse 20 He speaks of the fact that there was going to be an even greater revelation of Jesus.
 - (1) When? “In that day...” The day in which they live.
 - (2) Though the Christian is saved now, and he is made alive now. The reality is that there is a fulfillment that we are still waiting for.
 - (3) As I just read from 1 John 3:20, on the day that Christ calls us to be with Him, we will be changed. And the body of sin, the sinful flesh that Paul call “the body of this death” in Romans 7, will be gone.
 - (4) This is the fullness of our hope beloved. **It must be.**
 - (5) Today we live by faith. We hope in our Lord, but we do not see Him yet. We look forward to the day that we are no longer declared to be righteous, but instead, that we are made righteous.

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- (6) But in that day we will see and understand the union that we have with God.
- (7) 1 Cor. 13:12.
 - (a) Before we were saved, we could see nothing of God. We were blind and dead.
 - (b) When we were saved we then could see, but only darkly.
 - (c) But there will be a day we see and know fully.
- B. There is a key reason why the believer will not be abandoned/orphaned. Their life is hidden in Christ.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Listen to me and listen carefully.
 - 1. As you get nearer to God you will enter into a true enjoyment of life.
 - a. To draw near to God must always and only be through Christ.
 - b. The Bible says, “he who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.”
 - c. Do you have the Son? Do you have life? If you say “yes” then my next question is simple. Why do you say so?
- B. Look at verse 21 with me.
 - 1. There is a freedom that comes with being in Christ. When a person finds that their hope, their faith is not at all upon themselves and fully upon the Lord, then they are free.
 - 2. Free from the bondage of sin. Free from the terrors of God’s holy judgment and wrath. Free from the horrors of suffering for all eternity in judgment fire.
 - 3. But there is a bondage that you are placed under as well. You are constrained, from that point onward, due to the love that has been poured out in your heart, to live for your Lord.
 - 4. No longer are you a slave to sin, but instead, you are a slave to righteousness.
- C. The promise is massive but the promise of God is also serious:

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1. To come in faith to faith in Christ means your hope must shift from now to the resurrection to come.
2. To come in faith to faith in Christ means you take up the humiliation and shame of the cross and gladly bear it in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. To come in faith to faith in Christ means we encourage one another to continue in our hope in the promises of God in Jesus Christ.
4. As the writer of Hebrews said it, “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (12:1-3).

Community Group Questions

- What are the common barriers in your life that help divert your hope from Christ? How do you address them in your life and the life of your home?
- What are ways you can speak more of the hope found in the gospel within your household so as to create an atmosphere where hope abounds?
- Is there a connection between a Christian’s experiential hope and obedience? Why or why not?