

*In
search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philipians 4:8 (NASB-U)

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The Value of Hope

By: Dee Bowman

via—Plain Talk, November 1977

The Scriptures have considerable to say on the subject of hope. And yet I am convinced that many of us are not enjoying and appreciating our hope as we should, simply out of a failure to really understand what it is and how it affects us.

Hope is that which reaches off into the future and attaches itself on to that which we both desire and expect to receive. It is not necessarily affected by externalities, but is a mental persuasion which, even in the face of extreme persecution or intense pain, remains strong and active. As such, it becomes at once a strong and vital force in fighting such things as discouragements, failures of various sorts, frustrations, even death itself. Is it any wonder that the Hebrew writer calls it "the anchor for the soul"?

Hope is composed of two ingredients -- desire and expectation. In the absence of either, there is no real hope. For instance, I may desire a thing which I cannot possibly expect to receive; such would not be hope. I may expect a thing which is not at all desirable; such, likewise, would not be hope. But when I greatly desire a thing and have a warm expectation of receiving that thing, that is hope. And what a blessing!

It is hope which keeps us on the right course. Just as an electronic homing signal keeps the pilot of the aircraft on course, our hope keeps us following the proper heading. It is our hope which gives us the point of fixation needed to "keep our bark aright." Without it we would not have the goal we need to look to.

Hope lightens our load. It is our hope which makes us unaware of even the hardest burden. The presence of hope makes it possible for us to overcome seemingly insuperable obstacles. It causes us to have a healthy disposition toward trials and hardships, too, giving us the fuel to overcome and the virtue to persevere. When a person can see the journey's end, the path toward it somehow seems far less severe. And even though the path may be strewn with obstacles of various sorts, hope makes it possible for us to see far less of them than we do the light at the end of the way.

And hope intensifies our desires, too. When we conclude that a thing is possible, we suddenly realize the strength to carry on so as to achieve the goal. In fact, our conviction becomes a far more workable tool once we have realized the possibility of success. Hope is like a "second wind" to an athlete who needs it to finish a

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Classes* 10:00 AM

AM Worship 10:45 AM

PM Worship 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes* 7:00 PM

(* Bible Classes for All Ages)

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304-737-1422

long and difficult run. Is it any wonder that hope and faith are connected together (Cf. Heb. 11:1)?

Hope provides confidence. In 2 Pet. 1:4 Peter says, "*Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might become partakers of the divine nature....*" Notice that it is the promises which provide us with the confidence we need. What a balm for the weary!

And hope is our connection to heaven. Without it we would not be able to visualize the joy that awaits the faithful. 'Truly, "hope springs eternal"!

Why is there Division?

By: Richard Thetford

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:10: "*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divi-*

sions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." God hates division and yet there is religious division in every denominational church and sadly, in most churches of Christ. Division is usually caused by either 1) a lack of respect for the authority of God and the Bible, or 2) an ignorance as to how to establish proper authority. Liberal minded people say that they don't need Bible authority for all they do religiously.

When people try to justify any practice without an appeal to the Bible, that is called liberalism. A liberal practice is a practice for which no Bible can be cited for that practice. There are some people that have an attitude toward the Bible that it really does make a difference, that one must have Bible authority for what one practices, yet they may sometimes find themselves engaging in liberal practices for which there is no Bible authority. When this happens one will usually do one of two things: 1) They will immediately change their attitude to a liberal attitude (they don't need Bible authority for what they do) so they can keep their unscriptural practice, or 2) they will keep their attitude toward the Bible (that you do need Bible authority for all you do) and immediately give up their liberal practices.

Liberalism is an attitude toward the authority of God and the Bible that says "you can do things for which book, chapter, and verse cannot be given." I believe there are some people who are not liberal, yet they engage in liberal practices. Such people are always ready to study and give an answer (1 Peter 3:15). People who are afraid to study for fear they cannot give an answer for their practices, are liberal.

It's been years since virtually all churches of Christ preached against the denominations for having their church kitchens, social halls, game tables, church parties, etc. It has been some 50 years since churches of Christ began to divide over these same issues. Now today, many in churches of Christ don't know why there are differences in churches of Christ. The issues have not changed — but the preaching has!

Pat Robertson's Failed Predictions

By: Heath Rogers

The following is an excerpt from a news story by Steven G. Vegh, published Jan. 3, 2007:

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson cited communication with God in predicting Tuesday that horrific terrorism aimed at the United States will result in "mass killing" during the second half of 2007.

"The Lord didn't say nuclear, but I do believe it'll be something like that — that'll be a mass killing, possibly

Today's Sermon:

AM—What are my responsibilities at worship

PM—The Invitation of Jesus (cont.)

millions of people, major cities injured," Robertson said.

"There will be some very serious terrorist attacks," he added. "The evil people will come after this country, and there's a possibility - not a possibility, a definite certainty - that chaos is going to rule." Robertson did not say where the terrorism would occur.

Robertson made his predictions during "The 700 Club" television show that he hosts from the Christian Broadcasting Network's studio in Virginia Beach.

Predicting events for the coming year is an annual tradition for Robertson, who customarily spends the last days of each year in prayer. The prayer retreats yield "what I feel, or I feel the Lord is saying, is going to happen," he said Tuesday. "I put these things out with humility."

** Steven G. Vegh's full story can be found at www.theolympian.com/101/story/58779.html*

What does the Bible say that we should do with someone like Robertson who claims to make predictions in the Lord's name? This situation is addressed in Deuteronomy 18:20-22. *"But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' - when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him"* (emphasis mine - HR).

Let's apply the instruction found in this passage to the situation before us. Robertson has claimed that the Lord has revealed these things to him, that is, he claims to be speaking in the name of the Lord. Robertson said that there would be "mass killings," and that "major cities" in the United States would be injured in the second half of 2007. He said that it was "a definite certainty" that chaos was going to rule. Well, 2007 has come and gone. Where were the mass killings in the US? What major cities were injured? Where is the chaos?

According to the Bible, Pat Robertson is a false prophet. He is not to be listened to in anything. Robertson may try to worm his way out of this conclusion by offering some excuse, but God-fearing, Bible believing Christians know what to do with him. We also know what to do with others who make similar claims.

We don't need to know what events are going to take place in the world during the coming year. The Lord teaches us to "watch" and "be ready" (Matthew 24:42-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11). Are you ready?

News N Notes

Remember these in your prayers:

- Lucille Harless, Dave Harless' mother
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband.
- Blake Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Matt Ferrell
- Trudell Tennant
- Bud and Merl Frey
- Tammy Garrison, Zeda Goddard's daughter
- Audrio Gaudio, Nancy Morris' great-granddaughter
- Marie Roberts, & Ed's father, Jim Roberts.
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Cary & Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap