**You’re Not Hopeless!**

(So be *hope-filled*)

Few preachers with considerable experience *expect* to significantly educate or encourage their brethren with bulletin articles, but there is “hope” (tongue heavily in cheek!). Nonetheless, last week I wrote and published in our bulletin here an article based on 1Cor.13:13, “Faith, Hope, and Love.” I recommend it for your reading, if you have not already done so. I would like to further consider with you this morning one of those three stalwarts, “hope.”

Worldly “hope” is synonymous with “desire,” but not necessarily with “expectation.” In Texas during August, we might say, “I sure *hope* it will rain today,” but that didn’t mean we *expected* it to… and the same went for snow in December! Here, the *expectations* are a little different.

But biblical *“hope”* isn’t like that. Biblical hope includes *desire,* but also includes *legitimate expectation of attainment,* cf. Rom.5:5; 1Cor.9:10; Phil.1:20.

I don’t want you to be mistaken, and do want you to understand that there are people who are *without hope.*  Note, from Eph.2:11-13,that the *hopeless* were (and are):

* *separate from Christ,* v.12a;
* *excluded* from *spiritual Israel,* v.12b;
* *strangers to the covenants of promise,* v.12c; and,
* *without God in the world,* v.12d.

*In* and *under* *those* conditions, they were (and are) *hopeless!* And if you, my friend, are in any or all of *those* conditions, so are you! But you needn’t *remain* ***in*** those conditions- from Eph.1:3-12, you *may* and *can* be:

* *blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ,* v.3;
* for such was God’s *intention* and *purpose* for you from *before the beginning,* vv.4-6,9-10;
* that you receive *redemption* and *forgiveness through His blood,* v.7;
* to *obtain an inheritance* (as *sons*), v.11; that,
* ***in Christ YOU* have *this hope,* v.12!**

**Therefore, you are NOT:**

* **Too *dirty* to be *cleansed,* Eph.5:26; Heb.9:13-14;**
* **Too *broken* to be *made whole,* 1Pet.2:24; Jas.5:16; Heb.12:13;**
* **Too *far* to be *reached/reconciled,* Isa.59:1; Col.1:22-23**
* **Too *guilty* to be *forgiven,* Acts 2:36-38,39-41;**
* **Too *worthless* to be *loved,* Rom.5:8; 1John 4:8-10; or,**
* **Too *hopeless* to be *helped,* 2Cor.6:1-2; Heb.4:16.**

Being *“in Christ”* and having *“this hope”* does not guarantee all you may want *physically,* but all you need *spiritually!*  Therefore, *in* and *with* Christ, you are NOT *hapless, helpless,* or *hopeless!*