

Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet Lesson 8 2Q 2007

Revelation of Hope

What is hope?

1. to cherish a desire with anticipation *intransitive verb*
2. to desire with expectation of obtainment *transitive verb*
3. to expect with confidence *transitive verb*

Which of these apply to the Christian hope?

What do we hope for?

What is the basis of our hope?

How does the Bible enhance our hope?

Does hope imply in a certain sense a lack of confidence or certainty?

If a loving parent tells a child that the parent will cook them their favorite supper tonight, does the child “hope” they will have that meal when they get home from school? Or does the child hope if they don’t know?

Does hope go away with knowledge, understanding, and faith? Or does our hope transition from an intransitive hope to a transitive hope?

We long for the day of His appearing with confidence of obtainment, with certainty, this is the hope of a believer. But the hope of a non-believer is to simply hope there is something better, not really expecting something better.

For me then expect connotes more confidence than hope, does anyone have a better word to express hope that has confidence?

I expect Jesus to come – I have confidence it will happen

I hope Jesus will come in my lifetime – I am uncertain about that

SUNDAY

Read memory text at top – what passages from Scripture bring you hope?

Do the Scriptures bring hope to everyone that reads them? If they don’t why might the Scriptures not bring hope?

Read first paragraph and bottom pink– thoughts? What do you think it means “die the death we should die”? How is this true? How is this not true?

Death of Christ

- Separation from Father
- Longing for Father's face
- Trusting Father
- Knowing F's Character
- Sense of F's favor
- Love overcame selfishness
- Dead < 72 hours
- Died victoriously

Death of Wicked

- Revelation of Father
- Hiding from Father's face
- Distrusting Father
- Not knowing F's character
- No sense of F's favor
- Consumed by selfishness
- Die eternally
- Die loser

What does it mean "bore in Himself the penalty for our sins"? What is the penalty for sin? Is it externally imposed or is it inherent? How did Christ bear it?

Was Christ's suffering and death for us only?

Through the plan of salvation, a larger purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth. Through the revelation of the character of God in Christ, the beneficence of the divine government would be manifested before the universe, the charge of Satan refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated. {ST, December 22, 1914 par. 4}

But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe. To this result of His great sacrifice--its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man--the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me." John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin. {PP 68.2}

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:19,20

What difference does it make to realize that the unfallen angels and worlds needed the cross of Christ? Does it give you greater confidence in your hope?

MONDAY

Title of today's lesson – Hope of Forgiveness – thoughts about this title?

Do we hope with anxiety and uncertainty whether we will be forgiven? Or do we have confidence we are forgiven?

Story of man who had MI and heart stopped several times and each time was defibbed and restarted. Each time he awoke he thought, “I hope there isn't some sin that I have forgotten to confess that I haven't gotten forgiveness for that will keep me out of heaven.”

Read bottom paragraph – what does it mean that through Jesus we have forgiveness? Does it mean that if Jesus didn't die that the Father would be unforgiving?

If you don't claim His promises of forgiveness yourself is God then unforgiving?

What does it mean He removes our sins as far as east is from west? From history? From memory? From record books in heaven? OR from the character of His people?

In the TQ on page 93 it states, “Review what God has done throughout history to provide hope and assurance. Contrast this with the results of human efforts. What keeps us from choosing what God offers? Since our situation is beyond human repair, what do you think it will take for us to learn to rely on the hope God offers?”

Thoughts about this quote? What keeps us from choosing God? Lies about God that impair our ability to trust Him. Can anyone think of any that troubled you sometime in your life?

What will it take? The truth about God which restores trust!

TUESDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Do we only have hope that God will never cast us away or can we have more than hope? Does God ever cast us away?

But your iniquities have separated
 you from your God;
 your sins have hidden his face from you,
 so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:2

Is there a difference between casting away and letting sadly letting go?

My people are determined to turn from me.
 Even if they call to the Most High,
 he will by no means exalt them.

"How can I give you up, Ephraim?
 How can I hand you over, Israel?
 How can I treat you like Admah?
 How can I make you like Zeboiim?
 My heart is changed within me;
 all my compassion is aroused.

I will not carry out my fierce anger,
 nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim.
 For I am God, and not man--
 the Holy One among you.
 I will not come in wrath. Hosea 11:7-9

What does this mean? The children of Israel were turning away from God, rejecting God, hardening their hearts against God. And God, rather than simply ignoring the problem intervened in a variety of ways, prophets, miracles, signs, and then threatenings – but when all these interventions failed to get through to the people and they were “determined to turn” away from God, God makes it clear His true character – that of compassion and that He will not actually act in angry and wrathful ways.

Why doesn't God have to? Because the penalty to sin is inherent.

Who is Jesus, as our Mediator “defending” us against? Where is Jesus mediating?

Is the Great High Priest ministering in His Temple? Yes, where is His Temple? What does the NT say? We are the Temple of the Spirit – Christ is working in our hearts and minds, interceding in us to cleanse us and restore love in our hearts and minds so that we can be in unity with Him and His Father!

Read second paragraph – thoughts?

In order to treat a problem it must be properly diagnosed so an effective remedy or treatment can be applied. What is the problem with sin? Why is sin bad? How would you diagnose it and then what do you see as God's remedy?

WEDNESDAY

Read memory text – thoughts? Is this a promise from God? A guarantee that if righteous you'll never go hungry? Or is it the honest reflections of the writer of the text?

Have the righteous ever gone hungry? Have the righteous ever suffered? Then what does this text mean?

In a spiritual sense – do the righteous ever get forsaken or ever have to beg for spiritual bread?

Christ is the bread of life, the manna that came down from heaven, did we have to beg for Him or did He come to us while we were yet sinners? Is this a better application?

Why or why not?

What can happen to those who take these texts literally rather than seeing the spiritual application? After WWII many Jews gave up a belief in God because they claimed texts like this yet millions were killed in the gas chambers, if they would have seen this as pertaining to God's eternal kingdom of love which manifests through Christ would they have been able to handle it better?

In TQ page 97 it states, "In John 10:10 Jesus says, 'I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.' How does accepting God's forgiveness make abundant, hopeful life possible?"

Thoughts? Is accepting forgiveness from God all that is necessary to experience God's abundant life? What else is necessary? Understanding and applying the truth – what truth? The truth about God and His kingdom of love, of getting into harmony with His original design for mankind and living in harmony with the principles life was based upon.

THURSDAY

First paragraph read – thoughts, consider the analogy of a computer and a server and how the data on the computer is backed up on the server so even if the computer is destroyed all the information is safe. Our unique identities are backed up on the heavenly server (record books) so if we die we are preserved with Christ:

Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend. There is no law of God in nature which shows that God gives back the same identical particles of matter which composed the body before death. God shall give the righteous dead a body that will please Him. {6BC 1093.2}

Read bottom pink section – thoughts?

Are we living Christlike lives only for the reward or the threat of punishment? If there was no reward can you think of a better way to live?

FRIDAY

Question 1 read and discuss