

CHRIST: THE HOPE OF A WORLD DEAD IN SIN

There are no sadder words than "No Hope." Man needs hope, a lasting hope for time and eternity.

▶ 1 Cor. 15:19 - *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"*

We need hope, and there is such hope given by God. We are saved by hope.

▶ Rom. 8:24 - *"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"*

Before Christ we were without hope.

▶ Eph. 2:12 - *"That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"*

Man's problem is sin; we have all sinned and separated ourselves from God. We need forgiveness and reconciliation.

▶ Rom. 3:10. - *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"*

▶ Rom. 3:23 -. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

There is no hope for sinful man.

▶ I John 5:19 - *"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."*

The hope is in Christ and his Gospel.

▶ Rom. 1:16 - *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

▶ Matt. 1:21 - *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."*

We want to study 4 P's that cover our subject: (1)Plight of Man, (2)Person of Hope, (3)Provision of Hope and (4) Proclamation of Hope.

PLIGHT OF MAN

Romans chapter one tells the plight of man in verses 20-28. Notice the following verses from this chapter:

- ▶Rom. 1:20-21 - *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."*
- ▶Rom. 1:24-25 - *"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."*
- ▶Rom. 1:28 - *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"*

The world had become wicked and sinful. God said he would send his son to save it.

- ▶Gal. 4:4-5 - *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

This is the good news of Romans 1:13-17. Notice verse 17: *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*

It is not possible for man to save himself.

- ▶Eph. 2:8 - *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"*

We see man's plight is sin.

PERSON OF HOPE

Who is this person of hope? Jesus Christ.

- ▶Matt. 1:21 - *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."*
- ▶John 1:29 - *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*
- ▶Mark 10:45 - *"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Why did Jesus do this? Because of love.

- ▶Rev. 1:5 - *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood"*
- ▶John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

How does Jesus do this? Through obedience.

- ▶Hebrews 5:9 - *"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"*

Where are we saved? In the Church.

- ▶Gal. 3:27 - *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*
- ▶Eph. 5:23 - *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."*

Christ is the only hope of the world.

- ▶John 14:6 - *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*
- ▶John 10:10 - *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

PROVISION OF HOPE

How does a person get this free gift of salvation?

- ▶Eph. 2:5-9 - *"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised*

us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

We must obey the Lord's commands and keep faithful until death.

- ▶ *John 14:15 - "If ye love me, keep my commandments."*
- ▶ *Rev. 22:14 - "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."*
- ▶ *Rev. 2:10 - "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

We must grow in the fullness of Christ.

- ▶ *Eph. 4:11-16 - "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

These provisions are found in the gospel message, the Bible.

- ▶ *2 Tim 3:16-17 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."*

We must obey, grow and add the Christian graces, study, and learn what the will of God is, live the gospel, live according to God's word.

PROCLAMATION OF HOPE

The gospel of hope can be found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

▶1 Cor. 15:1-4 - *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"*

We need to believe it and share it with others.

▶Matt. 28:19-20 - *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"*

We must obey the gospel to have that wonderful and precious hope. The results of NOT obeying are terrible.

▶2 Thes. 1:7-9 - *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"*

▶Matt. 7:21-23 - *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*

Have you obeyed the gospel? Are you lost without hope? Christ is the hope; will you put your trust and hope in him? Obey the Gospel by faith, repentance, confession, baptism and living faithful unto death.

The choice is yours.

▶Josh. 24:15 - *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which*

your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

These great and precious promises are in Christ, in the Church. How sad to be lost without God, without Christ, without hope.

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APOLOGIA

QUESTION: What does "baptized for the dead" mean in 1 Corinthians 15:29?

ANSWER: *"Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?"* (1 Cor. 15:29)

Some mistakenly view this verse to teach that we who are yet alive may be baptized for someone who has already died. Our Mormon friends teach this, and no doubt others are troubled over what this verse is actually saying.

It had been mentioned in verse 12 that some were saying *"there is no resurrection of the dead."* But the following verses (13-28) speak in detail about the beautiful hope there is of a resurrection from death. Verse 20 assuredly states, *"But now IS Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."* Having shown that there will be a resurrection, Paul then supports his argument by asking about their purpose in being baptized.

Just what is the purpose of baptism? John wrote, *"the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). And in Romans 6:3-4 Paul explains that it is in baptism that we come in contact with the death of Christ (where His blood was shed).

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Then he compares the benefit of baptism (a death, a burial, and a coming forth from the symbolic watery grave) with the

For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Sept. 4 - 7	Antioch Congregation Livingston, TN	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 8 - 12	Mt Zion Congregation Eubank, KY	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
Sept. 12 - 14 7:00 pm EST Fri. & Sat. 10:30 am & 1:30 pm Sun.	Fayetteville Road Congregation Fairburn, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Sept. 4 - 7	Estesburg Congregation Estesburg, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Sept. 19 - 21	Barnes Ridge Congregation Monroe, TN	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
Sept. 22 - 26	Hopkinsville Congregation Hopkinsville, Ohio	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What were the first things in creation God saw as "good?"
2. After Ishbosheth's death David was anointed king. How old does the Bible say he was at this time?
3. According to Ezekiel who did God say would possess the houses which formerly belonged to the Jews?
4. Which two Old Testament figures appeared with Jesus after his transfiguration on the mountain?
5. If a woman exercises faith, love, and holiness with self-control, what will be her reward?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. According to 1st Chronicles, how old did a male have to be to serve in David's armies? TWENTY-ONE (1 Chr. 27:23)
2. Where did God send Jeremiah to learn a lesson about His ability to remake a nation? THE POTTER'S HOUSE (Jer. 18:2)
3. What did "Boanerges," the name Jesus gave to James and John the sons of Zebedee, mean? "SONS OF THUNDER" (Mark 3:17)
4. Paul instructed the Colossians not to be cheated out of their reward by people who practice what two things? FALSE HUMILITY AND WORSHIP OF ANGELS (Col. 2:18)
5. Whom does Paul refer to as "My own heart?" ONESIMUS (Phm. 1:12)