

THE BLESSED HOPE

INTRODUCTION:

1. In **(Titus 2:13)** We read, ***“waiting for the blessed* hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;”***

2. My subject is the blessed hope.

A. The blessed hope we have in Christ is eternal life. **(1 John 5:11)** ***“And the testimony is this, that God gave to us everlasting life and this life is in his Son”***

B. We have a promise of eternal life. **(Titus 1:2)**. ***“upon the hope of everlasting life, which God, who is incapable of lying, promised before times everlasting.”***; also, in **(1 John 2:25)** we read, ***“And in this is the promise which he promised to us- everlasting life..”***

C. The Bible teaches us that salvation is in Christ with eternal glory. **(2 Tim 2:10)**.

D. **(Jude:21)** Gives us a picture of **THE BLESSED HOPE**. ***“Keep yourselves in God’s love* , waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ * for everlasting life.”***

E. Jude says we need to keep ourselves in the love of God.

F. In **(1 John 5:3)**, The writer tells us how to keep ourselves in the love of God. ***“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous. And Jesus said if you love me keep my commandments.”*** **(John 14:15)**.

3. We must be obedient to the gospel and faithful unto death to inherit eternal life. **(Mark16: 16)**. **(Revelation 2:10)**.

A. Remember the words of Paul in **(2 Timothy 4:6-8)**. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. ***“For* I am already a drink-offering and the time of my departure stands-ready. I have fought the good fight. I have completed the course. I have kept the faith.***

Furthermore, the crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord,

the righteous judge, will give to me in that day, and not only to me, but also to all those who have loved his appearing..”*

B. Look at some of the terms we have noticed already.

BLESSED HOPE. ETERNAL LIFE. CROWN OF LIFE. CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

C. We learn that at the Second Coming of Christ if we have been obedient to the gospel and faithful unto death we will receive a crown of life. Or eternal life.

1. My lesson the blessed hope has two parts.

A. SALVATION PRESENT.

B. SALVATION ETERNAL.

2. Salvation present.

A. Our blessed hope begins with obedience to the gospel of Christ. (Mark 16:16).

B. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation. (Romans 1:16.)

C. The plan of salvation is set forth in the New Testament.

3. The plan of salvation.

A. Hear (Romans 10:17).

B. Believe (John 8:24)

C. Repent (Luke 13:3)

D. Confess Christ (Acts 8:37)

E. Be baptized (Acts 22:16)

F. Be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10)

G. WHICH ONE OF THESE CAN WE LEAVE OUT OR CHANGE?

H. NOT ONE AND BE PLEASING TO GOD.

When you take a phone number and change one number, will you get the party you are calling? The answer is no, why do people think they can change the plan of salvation and be saved and have the hope of eternal life?

I. (Hebrews 5:8-9) ***“Although being a Son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered; and having been completed, he became the cause of everlasting salvation to all those who are obeying* him;”*** _

What did the verse say?

What did the verse not say?

It said He is the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him.

It did not say He is the author of eternal salvation unto all that disobey Him.

The problem we have is that men are trying to direct their own steps. In Jeremiah 10:23. ***“O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself. It is not in man who walks to direct his steps.”*** Proverbs 14:12. ***“There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end of it are the ways of death.”*** Matt15: 8-9, ***“These people are drawing near to me with their mouth, and are honoring me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me. But they are worshiping me in futility, teaching as their teachings- the commandments of men.’.”*** Mark 7:8.” ***For* while leaving the commandment of God, you* are holding-fast the tradition of men, like immersions* of pint pitchers and cups, and you* practice many other such similar things.”*** From these scriptures one very quickly sees that some are not satisfied with the word of God. Men are teaching such doctrines today as: **Once saved always saved**. The doctrine of once saved always saved or once in God’s grace always in God’s grace or as it is commonly stated you cannot fall from God’s grace. The scriptures teach us that we can fall from grace. In Galatians 5:4. Paul said ***“So-then, he who thinks he stands, let him beware, lest he might fall!”*** **1 Corinthians 10:12**. We are taught in Revelation 3:5 that our name can be taken out of the book of life.

We learn in 1 John 1:7-9, If we walk in the light we have fellowship with Him. What if we stop walking in the light?

In 2 Peter 1:5-11 we read: ***“Now also for this same reason, besides having brought in all diligence, supply in your* faith, virtue, and in your* virtue, knowledge and in your* knowledge, self-control, and in your* self-control, endurance, and in your* endurance, godliness* ; and in your* godliness* , brotherly-love, and in your* brotherly-love, love* . For* if these things exist and increase in you* , none will designate you* idle or unfruitful toward the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For* the one is blind in whom these things are not present* , being short-sighted, having taken on himself the forgetfulness of {i.e., deliberately forgot} the cleansing from his old sins. Hence brethren, be diligent to make* your* calling and choice steadfast; for* if you* are practicing these things, you* may never* trip; for* so the entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to you* .***

What if you do not do these things? You will fall. Men also teach the doctrine of salvation by faith only. One man said it is faith plus nothing. Does that mean faith without repentance? The Bible teaches that we are not saved by faith only. Passages such as James 2:17-24 ***“So also your faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself. But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith away from your works. I will also show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is one; you are doing well. The demons also believe and shudder. But are you willing to know, O vain man, that faith is dead without works? Was not Abraham our father justified from works, having offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works and his faith was completed from his works? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘And Abraham believed God and it was counted to him* for righteousness,’ and he was called the friend of God. {Gen 15:6} Now-then, do you* see that a man is justified from works and not from faith alone?”***

One young man wrote on a piece of paper the plan of salvation he taught people;

It simply said believe and confess, (He said that is all you have to do.) He used as his only two verses of scripture (Romans 10:9- 10) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto

salvation, ask the young man if you must repent? He said, “ Oh yes. So, he had to add some verses to the plan of salvation he taught people. Baptism was not one of the verses he added. He said you should be baptized after you are saved.” When I asked him to answer the following questions he would not because he could not.

Based on **(Acts 22:16)** *“And now, why are you hesitating? You yourself, stand up; be immersed* and bathe away your sins, calling upon the name of the Lord.”*

1. Question: Was Saul saved at some point before baptism?
2. Question: What point was it?
3. Question: Why did he still have sins in the room at a point before baptism.
4. Question: What was Saul told to do to have his sins washed away?
5. One can quickly see why they do not answer these questions for they cannot answer them and hold to their false doctrine.

Another doctrine that men teach is that salvation comes by grace only. We are saved by grace but not grace only. We are saved by faith but not faith only.

The Bible teaches in (Ephesians 2:8-9) *“For* you* are saved by the grace, through the faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; not from works, that* not anyone should boast.”* So, where does faith come from? **(Romans 10:17)** *“Consequently* , the faith comes from our report, but our report comes through the declaration of God.”* The bible teaches that we are not saved by our own works. **(Ephesians 2:9)**

If we are saved by grace only why aren't all men saved? Because the grace of God hath appeared to all men. **(Titus 2:11)** God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. If we are saved by grace only then why aren't all men saved?

The answer is men are lost because they will not come to repentance, will not obey the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation. **(Romans 1:16)** Another doctrine that is taught by men. The doctrine that you are not saved by

works. True we are not saved by our own works. (**Ephesians 2:9**). Or does the works of the law save us. (That is the ten-commandment law). (**Galatians 2:16**). Remember (**James 2:17**) *“So also your faith, if it does not have works, is dead in itself.”* And (**James 2:24**) *“Now-then, do you* see that a man is justified from works and not from faith alone? What kind of works must we work? Let Jesus answer this for us in (**John 6:28-29**), “Therefore they said to him, What should we do, in order that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, in order that you* might believe in him whom that one has sent.”*

When men throw all works out, they throw faith out. Belief (faith) is called a work of God. That is why James said faith without works is dead. Faith must be obedient. (**James 2:18**) *“But someone will say, You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith away from your works. I will also show you my faith by my works.”*

We have looked at salvation present what the Bible teaches and what men have taught. None of these doctrines of men will lead you to the Blessed Hope of **Titus 2:13**.

2. SALVATION ETERNAL

WE HAVE A PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE. (Titus 2:1)

A. We must be obedient to the gospel in order to be forgiven of past sins (**Acts 2:38**).

B. The Lord adds us to his church the moment we have been baptized into Christ. (**Acts 2:47**).

C. Now we are in a position to be faithful to God, faithful unto death (**Rev 2:10**)

D. In (**Acts 2:41**) we read of three thousand people that were baptized and the next thing you read about them is found in (**Acts 2:42**). And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

E. It should not be the case that we baptize someone on Sunday and never see them again! We have an obligation to be faithful to the Lord.

F. It helps to understand that baptism puts us into a right relationship with the lord (**Mark 16:16**). But faithfulness takes us to heaven in the end at the judgement (**Revelation 2:10**) (**Titus 2:13**).

3. SOME THINGS WE NEED TO REMEMBER IN ORDER TO HAVE THAT BLESSED HOPE AT THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

1. Fight the good fight of faith lay hold on eternal life. (**1Timothy 6:12**).
2. Worship God in spirit and in truth. (**John 4:24**).
3. Have the desire to know the word of God. Study. (**2Timothy 2:15**).
4. Be a peacemaker. (**Matthew 5:8**).
5. Be a worker. (**John 9:4**).
6. Practice pure religion. (**James 1:27**).
7. Love the lost (**Mark. 16:15-16**).
8. Love the brethren. (**Hebrews 13:1**) (**Galatians 6:1-2**).
9. Repent and pray for forgiveness when we fall short. (**Acts 8:21-24**)(**Luke 17:3**).
10. Live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; (**Titus 2:12**).
11. Never forget the promise of (**Colossians 1:5**) For the hope, which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;
12. Never forget (**John 14:1-3**) *“Do not let your* heart be disturbed; you* believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many abodes; otherwise, I would have told you* . I am going-onward to prepare a place for you* . And if I go-onward, I will prepare a place for you* . I am coming again and will receive you* to myself; that* where I am, you* may also be there.”*
13. Never forget (**John 14:6**) *“Jesus says to him, I am the way and the truth and the life; no one is coming to the Father, except through me.”*

IF WE MISS HEAVEN WE HAVE MISSED IT ALL (Titus 2:13)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Let us be obedient to the gospel and faithful unto death so heaven can be ours.

05/30/2021 Morning Service.