



Worship Service
March 14, 2021
Pastor Chris Regas

Zephaniah: Hope through the Darkness

Lesson Eight • Zephaniah 3:19-20

Hope Delayed

Hope Delayed Can Make Your Heart SICK!

*"Hope delayed makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life."
Proverbs 13:12*

1. Hope Delayed Can DISCOURAGE God's People.

- Waiting in Deafening SILENCE for 400 Years.

Malachi 4:1-5

- Living in Humiliating SUBMISSION to 4 Gentile Kingdoms.

Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and the Roman Empire - Daniel 2; 7

2. Hope Delayed Can DISTRACT God's People.

God's People Begin to Fix Their Hope on the Wrong Objects

- The **Pharisees** fixed their hope on law KEEPING.

Distracted by Legalism – John 5:38-40

- The **Sadducees** fixed their hope on cultural COMPROMISE.

Distracted by Rationalism – Matthew 22:29

- The **Zealots** fixed their hope on radical REVOLUTION.

Distracted by Radicalism – John 18:36; Matthew 26:51-53

- The **Essenes** fixed their hope on extreme PURIFICATION.

Distracted by Separatism – Matthew 9:1-12; 23:25-27; Luke 11:38-40

3. Hope Delayed Calls for DISCERNMENT by God's People.

Seven Principles to Discern Where Your Hope is Fixed

- #1 Measure of truth in each group taken to an EXTREME.

- #2 Motives were often self-centered PRIDE rather than God-centered humility.

- #3 Mindset was on EXTERNALS more than internals.

- #4 Many missed the living hope in CHRIST when He came.

- #5 Maintain the proper perspective by knowing the STORYLINE of the Bible.

- #6 Make much of JESUS to avoid the extremes.

- #7 Must REPENT of false hopes to embrace Jesus, our only true hope.

*Which one of these four groups are you most prone to be like?
Which one are you most tempted to be like in the midst of your discouragement?*

Hope Delayed Is Not Hope DENIED but It Does Call for Discernment!

Where does your hope lie? **What** is your hope fixed on today? **Who** is your hope?

"Christ in you, the hope of Glory!" Colossians 1:27

TAKE the HOPE CHALLENGE

(See Handout)

For the next 30 days read the passages on our hope in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and then fill your heart with the hope of God in His Son, Jesus Christ our risen King.

THE HOPE CHALLENGE

**Where Does My Hope Lie? What Is My Hope Fixed On?
Who Is My Hope?**

For the next 30 days read through these passages on our hope in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and then fill your heart with the hope of God in the gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in **hope of the glory of God**. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, **hope**; and **hope** does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:1-5

For in **hope** we have been saved, but **hope** that is seen is not **hope**; for who **hopes** for what he already sees? But if we **hope** for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. Romans 8:24-25

Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, Romans 12:12

Now may **the God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

If we have **hoped in Christ** in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. 1Corinthians 15:19

Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom **we have set our hope**. And He will yet deliver us, 2Corinthians 1:9-10

For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the **hope** of righteousness. Galatians 5:5

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is **the hope of His calling**, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. Ephesians 1:18-19

Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope** and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:12-13

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the **hope laid up for you in heaven**, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel Colossians 1:3-5

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach — if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the **hope of the gospel** that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, Colossians 1:21-23

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and **steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ** in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 1Thessalonians 1:2-5

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and **good hope** by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. 2Thessalonians 2:16-17

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have **fixed our hope** on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. 1Tim 4:10

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for **the blessed hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, Titus 2:11-13

but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house — whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and **the boast of our hope** firm until the end. Hebrews 3:6

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize **the full assurance of hope** until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Hebrews 6:11-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 1Peter 1:3-4

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, **fix your hope completely on the grace** to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1Peter 1:13

For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and **hope are in God**. 1Peter 1:20-21

And everyone who has this **hope fixed** on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1John 3:3

Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27