

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart ...

How healthy are you spiritually? One might say they are real healthy, while another is not so sure. Let me ask this another way, what is your hope? Cynics for years have claimed hope is a disease of the mind, an illusion and vanity. Many push hope out of their thinking, not accepting life after death, just living this life and going off into oblivion. Some move on false hope, not searching or trusting in the truth, but believing, as they want to believe, hoping all will end well.

Hope is a wonderful, Biblical truth that sets a person down a spiritual path of righteousness and faith. Abraham had a great hope. “In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become the father of many nations according to that which had been spoken.” (Rom. 4:18) Abraham put his faith in God’s word, solely relied upon His promises and his hope was not put to shame. God did exactly what God said He would do!

Hope is not a wishing, but an expectation. It takes a saving faith to have real, genuine hope (Heb. 11:1). Hope is not a chance, but a desire coupled with expectation in God doing exactly what God said He would do. It’s taking God at His word!

A few years back, while visiting with a devout, God-fearing, Bible loving woman, she revealed to me how excited she was. I asked her why. She said, “*I went out this week and bought me a burial plot for my shiny, new casket!*” Here she was, near the end of her life and she was excited about death. For most, they can’t understand that. Death is not exciting or something to look forward to, but a dread. Then she quoted to me Titus 1:2, “In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.” She had real, genuine, faith building hope!

People can be cynical if they choose. They can doubt their doubts and live in their fears. Peter said it best, **“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, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”** (I Pet. 1:3-5) I’ll stand with Peter!

Let me ask again, how healthy are you spiritually? “The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I have hope in Him.” (Lam. 3:24) Think about it!!!

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