

The Hope of Glory:

An Exposition of Colossians

August 16, 2020

Sermon 9: The Basis for the Hope of Glory

Colossians 2:13-15

Opening Illustration: If you are drowning, and a lifeguard throws something into the water near you for you to grab ahold of, your entire hope depends on what that lifeguard threw. If he throws a book entitled, “learning how to swim in 5 short lessons...you are dead. You would not have the mental ability to learn that information in your current state. After all, you are just doing your best to keep your head above water. If he throws an anchor attached to a rope, then the more tightly you held on the more quickly you would sink in the water. You can hope in that rope, but the stronger your grip, the quicker you sink! If the lifeguard simply shouted out to you, “You can do it!”, you wouldn’t really benefit all that much. After all, it does you little good to feel good about your skills in swimming if you are, in fact, drowning. In this scenario, you would simply drown in the midst of your full self-confidence. No. If the lifeguard throws you a flotation device, you grab on and cling to it with all the strength you have left. That life preserver is your hope of survival. Therefore, in that moment, that life preserver becomes extremely important to you. What you trust in when you are drowning is the most important thing in your life.

So, what do you trust in? What is the basis for your hope? I am sure that nobody in this room or listening online is content to live without hope. We, by a universal rule of humanity, long to have confidence to get through the day. So, again, on what basis do you hope that when you die you will be able to stand before the Lord of glory with any sense of stability and acceptance?

The key to whether or not you truly have the hope of glory is what exactly you are trusting in for that hope of glory.

I. Introduction

A. What is the basis for our hope of glory?

1. Hope isn’t simply a feeling.
 - a. Again, when we use the expression “hope of glory,” we mean something like “assurance of salvation.”
2. Hope must have an object.
 - a. What is ours?
 - b. On what do you place your hope?
 - i. Perhaps you hope in your own goodness—“I am a good person.”
 - ii. Perhaps you hope in your life’s suffering—“With all that I have gone through, the Lord has got to accept me!”
 - iii. Perhaps you hope in everyone else’s badness—“I am no worse than the next guy!”
 - iv. Perhaps you hope in your religion—“I go to church most Sundays. I even serve in the church!”
 - v. Perhaps you hope is some nebulous picture of God—“I really shouldn’t let you in, but go ahead!”

B. The gospel is the basis for our hope of glory.

1. Because of this, we must be clear as to what the gospel is.
2. Because of this, we must be sure that we are genuinely saved.

Point: Why are these verses here? Why have this between a passage about deception and a passage about legalism?

II. What’s the Problem? v. 13a

A. You were spiritually dead.

ILL: A dead dog in the middle of the road. Isn’t the saddest thing to be driving and to see a dead dog in the middle of the road? Wouldn’t you agree that the most ridiculous thing to do in that situation would be to stand on

the curb and yell, “Here, boy!”? After all, the dog is dead! I would suggest that anyone who does simply yell at the dog to move would be considered insane or disturbed. I mean...the dog is dead!

1. What does this mean?
 - a. This means that though you physically alive, you are spiritually lifeless. That is to say that before you are saved, whatever animated you...whatever drove you...whatever it was, it was NOT the principle of spiritual life.
 - b. This means that though you craved all that is natural, worldly and selfish, you do not and cannot crave holiness. Your heart was a stone!
 - c. This means that you were unable to sufficiently understand and thereby appreciate truth.
 - i. **1 Corinthians 2:14** But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
 - ii. **2 Timothy 3:7** always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
2. What does it mean that we were dead “in our trespasses”?
 - a. This means that sin was our natural default.
 - b. This means that our continuing sin was incurring more and more guilt.
 - c. This means that we loved the instrument of our death...and we willing participants in our own damnation.
 - i. **Jeremiah 5:31** The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

B. You were positionally excluded.

1. This was true in one sense because they were Gentiles.
 - a. Ephesians 2:11-13
2. This was true in another sense because they had not yet been reconciled to God.
 - a. See Ephesians 2:12

C. What the point in all this?

1. A dead dog’s problem is not hunger. He can no longer eat.
2. A dead dog’s problem is not society. He can no longer be mistreated or neglected.
3. A dead dog’s problem is not neglect. He is too far gone for that!
4. A dead dog’s problem is that he is dead. We have the same problem. It must be remedied.

III. What’s the Remedy? vv. 13b-14

A. He regenerated your soul.

1. **1 Peter 1:3** 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,
2. **Ephesians 2:5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

B. He forgave your sin.

1. Literally, God forgave “all our transgressions” (paraptwma). What does this word mean?
 - a. Specific instanced in which you did what you were not supposed to do.

C. He canceled your debt.

1. Was this necessary? What is Paul’s point?
2. Why does Paul use the imagery that he does?

IV. How Can This Be? v. 15

A. He [God] disarmed the enemy.

1. The Greek word here (apekduomai) means to “disarm”. This word is also used in a different context to mean to strip someone’s robes of esteem off of them.

B. He displayed His victory

1. He made a public display of his enemies!

2. He embarrassed them in public!
3. He made his enemies a billboard of His triumph!

C. In Him [Jesus]!

1. What does this mean?
 - a. This means that the ministry of Jesus Christ [His life, death, burial, resurrection, etc.] is the basis for God's triumph and is therefore the basis for our hope of glory!

ILL: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus's blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

V. Conclusions

- A. The life, death, resurrection, etc. of Jesus Christ is the basis for our hope of glory.

Quote: Trust Christ's Righteousness *by Robert Traill*¹

Trust Christ's Righteousness

If a man trusts to his own righteousness, he rejects Christ's.

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¹ Elliot Ritzema and Elizabeth Vince, eds., 300 Quotations for Preachers from the Puritans, Pastorum Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2013).