

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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HOPE OF THE BIBLE

Larry R. Ping II

Traditionally, hope, as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, is "to wish for a particular event that one considers possible; the longing or desire for something accompanied by the belief in the possibility of its occurrence." Biblically speaking, hope is defined as "a thing longed for; confident expectation or anticipation."

The Bible has much to say about hope. How long has it been since you considered those thoughts of hope?

1) Hope Is In God.

True hope, that is. The Psalmist penned, "*For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God*" (Psa. 38:15). Soon thereafter he wrote, "*And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee*" (Psa. 39:7). And again, "*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God*" (Psa. 43:5). Mankind often disappoints with the breaking of his promises, and

his yea does not always mean yea, nor does his no always mean no (II Pet. 3:9; Jam. 5:12). No man can deliver me from my sins, nor can he grant me a home in heaven. Recall, "*Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people*" (Psa. 3:8).

2) Hope Permits Belief In The Seemingly Impossible.

With regard to Abraham, Paul wrote, "*Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be*" (Rom. 4:18). Some circumstances are very trying. Circumstances such as trials, tribulations, and temptations. They lend themselves to thoughts of impossibility. But with God, there is always hope, for with Him, "*all things are possible*" (Matt. 19:26).

3) Hope Saves Us.

The apostle clearly says, "*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? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Rom. 8:24-25). We yearn for Heaven, God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit! Hope keeps us keeping on!

4) Hope Is Laid Up In Heaven. Paul confirms this in Col. 1:5. Our aim and endeavor is beyond this land of parting. The Lord said, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*" (Matt. 6:21). Where is your treasure?

5) Hope Is An Anchor Of The Soul.

The writer of Hebrews said "*to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast*" (Heb. 6:18-19). When life, like a storm, gets windy, rough, and tumultuous, hope is what anchors us down and keeps us safe and afloat. As the Psalmist said, so shall we say, "*He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved*" (Psa. 62:6).

IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Edgar Albert Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mk. 10:27).

"And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Lk. 18:27).

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm