

UNBREAKABLE PROMISES, UNSHAKABLE HOPE.

God's Promise

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." (Hebrews 6:19)

My Promise:

I will anchor my soul to the hope of Christ.

OPENING

You have a soul. When God breathed into Adam, he gave him more than oxygen; he gave him an eternal being. This inward presence is the soul of man. Because of your soul, you wonder why you are here. Because of your soul, you wonder where you are going. Because of your soul, you wrestle with right and wrong, you value the lives of others and you get choked up at the singing of the national anthem and teary-eyed at the sight of your baby. Goldfish don't do these things. The soul is that part of you that separates you from animals and unites you to God. And that soul needs an anchor. Your soul is fragile. It feels the pain of death and knows the questions of disease. Hence, your soul needs an anchor, a hooking point that is sturdier than the storm. Your anchor is Jesus Christ firmly on his throne.

Reading:

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:3-7

TESTING THE UNSHAKABLE

It is time to put to the test if it is true or not that we have an “unshakeable hope”. Not only that, but we have to prove that it is effectively unshakable. Of all of the lessons we have studied, all of them apply to certain areas of our lives. In such a way that our hope in Christ is truly without cracks because it is founded upon the unshakeable Rock.

COMPARING HOPES

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

It is not out of line to remember who we were. In this way we can compare our passed way of living with the way that we now live anchored to Christ. The trip we made during this season, considering stories like that of Jacob, David, Mary Magdalene, gives us a frame of reference to thank God in saying “in another time we were _____.” Paul gives some characteristics of our passed life. They are certainly not pleasing. Rebellious? Me? Of course not! Do you remember that answer?

In another time, our rebellion was a part of our daily life, but, since our hope is now something else, we can verify that certainly God did something great in our lives.

OUR PASSED LIFE CAME TO A HALT

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,

We say that God is good. We say it truthfully. Only the goodness of God could have made us leave that sinful passed. That eternal “but” when God decided to place a halt in our passed. A final point to what we were. The formula is powerful, since, only the power of God can give us a greater hope.

Romans 5:8 says it well, “But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Yes, that goodness of God is poured out upon us because in our separation from Him, God shows His infinite goodness towards us and saves us from a life submerged in such a horrible condition.

HE SAVED US AND THAT IS IT!

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

We do not have to find a “deep” or “metaphysical” answer to the beauty that is salvation. He saved us and that’s it! Not by our works or by our justice. This is how He did it, “by His mercy” A good definition of mercy is “lots of patience.”

Now you can understand why Paul makes a list of the atrocities that we practiced without Christ. In spite of them, Christ died for us? That is nothing more than an act of mercy. It is that long patience that tolerates us and waits until we can respond to that salvation. That is the unshakable hope that sustains us.

HOW DID WE GET FROM “WE WERE” TO “WE ARE”?

Through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace; we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Paul numbers the process that it took God to reach this miraculous effect in our lives. We contemplate the scene of the cross and see Jesus paying for our sins. Paul explains that scene in human terms that explain what happens when we leave our “we were” and converts us in “we are”.

1. Washing- God washes us. When David asked for mercy, he told God, “Purify me with hisop, and I will be clean; Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.” Psalms 51:7. That act of erasing and taking away the stains that sin brings are erased by the blood of Christ.
2. Regeneration – Regeneration is the act of creating in us a new being. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 We were rebellious, but not anymore.
3. Renovation – There is nothing better than to know that we are new in Christ. This is what God promises to us, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26
4. Justified by grace – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9. The “we were” can only be converted in “we are” by a divine act. This act is the grace of God.

These four elements describe what happens in the life of a sinner.

WE ARE HEIRS

So that... having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

What can we say? That our unshakeable hope is summarized in one word: Heirs. We were on the road to destruction. Now we enjoy an eternal inheritance that revives and turns on an unshakeable hope.

What do we celebrate during the “unshakeable hope” journey? That we are edifying our lives in the promises of God. The problems and afflictions of life do not bother us. We are sustained by the great and precious promises of God.

“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.”

2 Peter 1:4