



God's Due Series, No 6: Hope, Titus 2:13

Mike Halpin December 27, 2020

Intro: In our unsettling times how do we keep our sense of stability?

2016 series, "What the Righteous Do". Psalm 11:3 ... if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

"The Jericho March" as example of ill-defined hopes producing deficient contemporary results.

Some responses to the march:

- Rod Dreher: <https://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/what-i-saw-at-the-jericho-march/>
- Michael Horton: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/cult-christian-trumpism/>
- Thomas Kidd: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christian-nationalism-patriotism/>

How could well intentioned, evangelical believers in Jesus get something so wrong?

- Misplaced hopes for the future lead to errors in judgment now.

What are my hopes for 2021 and beyond? To what do I look forward to with anticipation?

Hope = a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. (Aug 20th, 2017 message on Hope broadly.)

For our purposes this morning, **hope is a certain expectation of God's plans and promises being fulfilled in the future. Hope is not if, but when; not a maybe, but a certainty.**

We need to bring a hard-headed, biblically informed thought process to evaluate where we've set our hopes and expectations for the future.

I. OT Hope—

God has always called on humanity to put our trust in him; to make him, his promises, his provision, his goodness and loyal love our ultimate hope.

- Job
- Psalm 31:24
- Psalm 42:11
- Psalm 71:5
- Lamentation 3:19–24

Throughout the OT God makes it clear that He is the only sure hope in this uncertain world. Those who hope in him are secure. Trust and hope in God can never ultimately disappoint. God upholds those who hope in him.

II. Certain Hopes—

If we want to have hopes that can't disappoint, by which we can orient our life today, we must _____.

- Romans 15:4

Hope of resurrection:

- Acts 23:6–15
- Romans 8:22–25
- 1st Corinthians 15:19

Christians are called specifically to the certain hope of the resurrection.

Hope of Jesus' appearing/the "rapture":

- Titus 2:11
- 1st Peter 1:13
- 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

The hope Christians are meant to entertain and wait for is that we will see Jesus face to face and be with him forever.

Regarding timing and the 2nd Coming: 2nd Coming texts: Zechariah 14, Luke 21, Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 1 and Revelation 19

Some Christians believe the rapture precedes the 2nd Coming by seven years...

Some Christians believe the rapture is part of the 2nd Coming...

In either scenario the primary hope is to see Jesus, to hear his call, to join him, wherever he is, forever.

The stage appears generally set for the rapture/2nd Coming:

- Israel is a nation—
- The European Union as the Roman Empire—
- World leadership and financial controls—

The world appears close to the setting of Jesus' 2nd Coming. No matter our eschatology, if the 2nd Coming is near, the rapture is even nearer, either by mere moments, or by just several years. We should be encouraging ourselves and each other w/ what Paul called "the blessed hope"; the certain and immanent appearing of Jesus to call us to himself forever.

Nothing should keep us from saying w/ the Apostle John and the saints of the ages, "Yes, come Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
Titus 2:11–14