

THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL
Col.1:23
Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The immediate context of which our text is a part (Vv.19-23) reveals some encouraging, faith-building spiritual truths, such as the truth that through faith in Jesus Christ by means of “the word of the truth of the gospel:”
 - a. It has pleased the Father that in Jesus Christ all fullness dwells for the gospel believer; that is: that nothing is lacking in Christ that is necessary for your spiritual welfare. Cf. Eph.1:3; 3:19; 4:12,13; Col.2:9,10.
 - b. That peace is made with God for you through the blood of the cross of Jesus Christ, by whom he has reconciled all things unto himself. Cf. Eph.2:16-18.
 - c. That though you were once alienated from God and enemies in your mind by wicked works, you are now reconciled in the body of his flesh through his death, in order to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.
2. This context reveals three basic things of the most encouraging nature:
 - a. What men **WERE** before hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel: “Alienated”
 - b. What they **ARE** after hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel: “Reconciled”
 - c. What they **SHALL BE** after hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel: “Presented faultless”
3. All of this has been made available to gospel believers, and all of this is assured along with the end result which is eternal in nature on the condition stated in V.23, examine and emphasize.
4. This introduces to us our topic: The Hope Of The Gospel, each part of which we shall study as we examine what the N.T. says about the Gospel and the Hope related to it.

II. DISCUSSION

A. FIRST, SOME THINGS THE N.T. REVEALS ABOUT THE GOSPEL.

1. It's identified as "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," in Mk.1:1,2.
2. It's the "good news, the good tidings of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His expiatory death, burial, resurrection, and ascension."
3. It's also identified as "the gospel of God, concerning his Son Jesus Christ our lord," unto which the Apostles of Jesus Christ were separated or set apart for the work of, in Rom.1:1-3; Cf. Gal.1:15; Eph.3:1-6; Mk.16:14-16; Then, Mt.28:18-20; Jno.17:6-8,14-21; Ac.1:1-8.
4. It is designated as "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek," in Rom.1:16.
5. It is that which saves the sinner from sin and eternal ruin when heard, believe and obeyed, 1Cor.1:21b; 15:1,2; 2Th.1:6-10.
6. It is that when preached is to preach Christ, and is to preach the faith of Jesus Christ, of which there is only one, 1Cor.2:1,2; 4:15-17; 15:1; Gal.1:6-12,23; Eph.4:4-6.
7. All who are in Christ, having been baptized into him (Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27), having been bought with a price (the blood of Jesus Christ, 1Pet.1:18,19), are to glorify God; are commanded to glorify God both in body and in spirit (1Cor.6:20); but, to glorify God, we must bear fruit (Jno.15:8); however, to bear fruit by which to glorify God we, as branches in the vine, must abide in the vine, who is Christ (Jno.15:4,5); moreover, according to Col.1:5,6 fruit is brought forth or produced in one's life when hearing "the word of the truth of the gospel," and knowing "the grace of God in truth."
8. Therefore, without the gospel there is no hope of forgiveness or deliverance from past sins nor of entrance "into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," 2Pet.1:1-11.

B. THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL – WHAT IT IS.

(Hope: Desire plus expectation; something you both desire and expect)

1. The hope of gospel is said to be a treasure "laid up (stored away) in heaven" for the gospel believer, where the Father and the Son abide, Col.1:5; 3:1,2.
2. The hope of the gospel is the hope of glory, and honor and immortality, eternal life, and peace, which obedient believers seek by patient continuance in well doing, Rom.2:6-11; Tit.1:2; 2:13; Rom.8:24,25; Cf. Col.1:27.

3. The hope of the gospel is identified as the incorruptible, undefiled inheritance that children of God, as heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, have awaiting them in eternity; if so be that they suffer with him, that they may be also glorified together, Rom.8:16-18; 1Pet.1:3-5; Cf. Col.1:12-14.
4. The hope of the gospel is said to be the anchor of the soul of the gospel believer that reaches into heaven itself – so strong, so sure, so steadfast it can anchor the soul in the storms of life, Heb.6:16-20.

III. CONCLUSION

1. According to Eph.2:12; 1Tim.1:1; Ac.4:10-12, Christ in you, the hope of glory, by means of the gospel, is the only hope anyone has now or every will have.
2. But according to 2Th.1:6-10 only those who believe and obey the gospel have the hope of the gospel. Cf. 2Tim.4:6-8.
3. Moreover, those who have and who maintain this hope of the gospel accept hope's responsibility which is declared in 1Jno.3:2,3.
4. Now, for emphasis, return to our text: Col.1:21-23. Cf. Tit.2:11-14; Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25.
5. Don't overlook that fact that our text suggests the possibility of one being "moved away from the hope of the gospel." Other passages reveal how it may be done in order to guard against it.
 - a. By personal neglect: Heb.2:1-3.
 - b. By self-conceit: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall," 1Cor.10:12.
 - c. By growing weary (losing heart) in well doing: "And let us not be weary in well doing," Gal.6:9.
 - d. By false teaching: "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the slight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, " Eph.4:13; etc., etc.
 - e. By living by feelings instead of by faith: Prov.14:12.
 - f. By persecution, sneers, ridicule and resulting fear of men: 2Tim.3:12; Mt.10:28.
 - g. In spite of all these things, and in view of 1Cor.10:13, take heart!