

I. Hope is Firmly Grounded in the Past Inheritance. (vv. 1 - 2)

- A. We have been adopted inescapably into the family of God.
- B. We have been reconciled unshakably with God.
- C. We stand permanently on Grace.

"We easily forget that gratitude exists because sometimes things come to us without price or payment. When that happens, we should feel a pleasant sense of the worth of what we've received and the goodwill behind it. This pleasant sense is what we call gratitude. Then, spontaneously rising from this pleasant sense, come expressions of delight. We feel constrained with joy to acknowledge the gift and the goodwill behind it and to express how good we feel about the gift and the heart of the giver." (John Piper, "Future Grace" p. 31)

II. Hope Strengthens Us in this Present Life (vv. 2b - 8)

Ephesians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:15

- A. The Glory of God is the object of our Hope. (v. 2b)
- B. Life's Suffering Matures Our Hope. (vv. 3-4)
- C. God's Love Assures Our Hope (vv. 5-8)

- (1) How much of an inconvenience or sacrifice did it cost the one who loved you?
- (2) How undeserving are you of that act of love?
- (3) What is the benefit that comes from that act of love?
- (4) How free is the act of love?

III. Future Hope of Escape from the Wrath of God (v. 9-10)

IV. Hope Finds Ultimate Confidence in God

Hope (Take a look at some of these verses about Hope this week)

one of the three main elements of Christian character (1 Cor. 13:13). It is joined to faith and love, and is opposed to seeing or possessing (Rom. 8:24; 1 John 3:2). "Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself designate the essence of Christianity (1 Pet. 3:15; Heb. 10:23). In it the whole glory of the Christian vocation is centred (Eph. 1:18; 4:4)." Unbelievers are without this hope (Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13). Christ is the actual object of the believer's hope, because it is in his second coming that the hope of glory will be fulfilled (1 Tim. 1:1; Col. 1:27; Titus 2:13). It is spoken of as "lively", i.e., a living, hope, a hope not frail and perishable, but having a perennial life (1 Pet. 1:3). In Rom. 5:2 the "hope" spoken of is probably objective, i.e., "the hope set before us," namely, eternal life (comp. 12:12). In 1 John 3:3 the expression "hope in him" ought rather to be, as in the Revised Version, "hope on him," i.e., a hope based on God.

(Source: Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary)

Summer Home Fellowship Discussion Questions

1. To breath in the air of grace, we have to learn to be grateful. List 20 things off the top of your head that you can be grateful for?
2. Are you going through (or have you gone through) a specific trial in your life when you see that God is maturing your life?
3. What difference does hope make in the Christian's life? In what ways does hope differentiate a believer from a non-believer?