



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – March 10, 2019

Heart to Heart...

People need hope. When faced with difficulties in our lives, hope is what pushes us forward. Too many doubts can arise during stresses of life and those doubts can easily become our lord. It takes us downward and our focus becomes the strain and not God and Christ Jesus. Too many try to help with cheap answers. *“And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”* (Psalm 39:7) The only way to have true hope is when we allow our mind and hearts to be lead to God and what He promises. The reality of hope is found in living because the hope of God is a living hope. (I Peter 1:3). When hope isn’t placed in God and Christ, there is little trust in the future and a great over-whelming of stress and uncertainty for the present.

When we speak of biblical hope, it is the surrendering of your own resources and looking to God for the final and desired outcome. If our hope is in our health, wealth, friends or education the door to fear and uncertainty opens. When our health fails or we no longer can keep up wit the race of new knowledge, where does that leave us? What do we do when our friends or family have no answers to help because they have little hope in their own lives? There is too much pop psychology being represented as faith grown hope and many can’t tell the difference.

To hope in God and Christ Jesus means we believe (trustingly) two major things: (1) God is able and (2) God is faithful. *“Therefore, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”* (Hebrews 7:25) Do we think God is faithful? Our wrestling about His faithfulness in dealing with us may be seen in our own unfaithfulness to Him. We look at our weaknesses and wonder how God can be faithful to us in such weakness. In this, our eyes turn from hope in Him to seeing how little hope we have in us! We depend too much on our own resources and our faith wains while our hope doubts. This is very unbiblical! God is the source and His resources are the only means by which our hope can

rest and find assurance in the midst of our difficulties. God is *able* and He is *faithful* no matter what. Our weaknesses and doubts do not change who He is or limits Him.

When we can surrender our resources (all of them including those nice little sentiments) that's when the power of hope becomes ours. When we find ourselves at wits end, we feel we must do more and God is pushed out. We find that we must labor more with God. We want to be more not less. And this is where problems enter our lives. ***“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*** (Romans 15:13)

Remember, the last words that will ever be spoken is God's and that alone should give us hope no matter what we face. Hope today and in the future. In this is a true , living hope. Come what may, our hope is secure with God in Christ Jesus. Think about it!!!

Brent