

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HORROR

Psalms 71:14; But I will hope continually and will yet praise the more and more.

HOPE

1. Hope indicates desire with the expectation of obtaining what is desired. Hope is belief that what is desired is obtainable.
2. Hopeful (Adj) Full of hope. Having qualities which excite hope.
3. Hope-chest: A box or chest in which a young woman accumulates an outfit of clothing in anticipation of her marriage some day.
4. Hopeless: (ADJ) Destitute of hope, despairing. Giving no ground of hope; a hopeless cause.
5. Hope overcomes despair: See 1691 in Thompson Chain Reference Bible.

THE HORROR WE FACE TODAY (HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HORROR IS OUR SUBJECT)

1. The current effort to be relevant to the world, the church seems bent on playing down the very reason for its existence. Because of this we hear:
 1. The cry of a bitter, needy, hopeless world.
 2. We can hear again those words of the weeping Mary: John 20:13; "And they say unto her, Woman why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid him."
3. We talk a lot about Christ being the "Lord of life."
 1. Before he can become the "Lord of life," he must become the Saviour from sin.
 2. Many in the world, some who call themselves Christians, totally reject the concept of Christ as the atoning Redeemer... Saviour from sin.
2. Another horror we face is:
 1. Jesus described the Pharisees of his day as "the blind leading the blind." "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch!"
 2. There is little evidence today that the organized church believes any man to be spiritually blind and lost. The great and empty pronouncements made indicate that all is well with man.

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF HORROR, Continued:

SOME REASONS FOR THIS SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND CONSEQUENT HORROR:

1. One reason for the Church's present ineffectiveness is:
 1. It is forced to depend upon administrators rather than upon preacher's of the Christ's gospel.
 2. Administrators force the church to depend upon programs rather than the gospel message.
 3. The church is made to depend upon some personality rather than upon Christ.
2. Another reason for the ineffectiveness of the church is:
 1. Many have forgot and even neglected their source of reference: THE BIBLE.
 2. Many have forgot that the only effective message is the Christ revealed in the Bible.
 3. Many have forgot that our personal attitudes must be dominated by Christ.

IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS AND HORROR THE WORLD IS DYING SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

1. There is physical death on every hand. Few of us can pretend to follow Epicurus' formula:
 1. "While I am, death is not; and when death is I am not. Therefore death is no concern to me."
 1. Death does concern modern man.
 2. Death concerned Socrates and he took what was for him the easy way out: The cup of hemlock.
 3. Death concerned Christ until in the garden his sweat was as great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:44
 4. Jesus seemed to have a natural fear of death and cried out to God for he did not want to face death alone. *many who have stripped Christ of his death, virgin birth, resurrection, atonement in Palestine, to men speaking out of confused minds, hopeless minds to people with out hope*
- BASED UPON THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, OUR HOPE REACHES BEYOND DEATH ITSELF TO AN ETERNAL LIFE. 1 Cor. 15:17ff

1. In denying the resurrection of Christ many deny themselves the "HOPE OF LIFE BEYOND THIS ONE." If Christ was not raised how do we explain the empty tomb?
 1. Jesus's enemies did not have the body...the last thing they wanted was a suggestion of resurrection. (2) These men (disciples) did not pay with their lives to propagate what they knew to be a lie.

SOME FACTS OF THE SPIRITUAL BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

1. The reason for the Church's present ineffectiveness is that it is forced to depend upon administrative men rather than upon Christ.
2. Administrators form the church to depend upon programs rather than the Gospel message.
3. The church is made to depend upon some persons, its rather than upon Christ.
4. Another reason for the ineffectiveness of the church is that many have forgot and even neglected their source of reference: THE BIBLE.
5. Many have forgot that the only effective message is the Gospel revealed in the Bible.
6. Many have forgot that our personal attitudes must be dominated by Christ.

THE FIRST OF ALL THIS SPIRITUAL BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IS DYING SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY

1. There is physical death on every hand. For of us can pretend to follow Christ's example: "While I am, death is not; and when death is not, therefore death is no concern to me."
2. Death does concern modern men.
3. Death concerned Socrates and he took what he thought the easy way out; the cup of hemlock.
4. Death concerned Christ until the garden of Gethsemane was as great a place of blood and pain as down to the ground. Luke 22:44.
5. Jesus seemed to have a natural fear of death and cried out to God for he did not want to face death alone. "My Father, if thou wilt, take this cup from me; but not my will, but thine be done." Luke 22:42.
6. In denying the resurrection of Christ many deny themselves the "WORK OF LIFE BEYOND THIS ONE."
7. Christ was not raised how do we explain the fact that Jesus' enemies did not have the body? The fact being explained was a resurrection of Jesus' body. (2) These men (disciples) did not pay attention to the fact that they had to be raised.