

A BETTER HOPE

(Heb 7:19) The Mosaic Law perfected nothing, a better hope was brought in, by which we draw near to God.

Intro: Almost daily we watch the news and see the desperate condition of our government. Deeply divided, having abandoned honor & integrity, living out the politics of hate & blame, bitterness has become so entrenched that discussion and agreement appear impossible. What we often forget is that our politics is only a symptom of the real & deeper problem, the ignorance of the individual believer & therefore the failure of church. Choosing to entertain & distract not educate & inspire, America's pulpits have fulfilled the itching ears prophecy of (2Tim 4:3-4).

Our mission is to offer a consistent, coherent Christian message (**better hope**) that will bring clarity to the lives of baby believers, beginning in Moody, extending to the whole world.

- a. **Progressive Revelation** – The Garden (Gen 3:15) > Gospel > seed of the woman > Seth, > Noah, > Abraham, > Isaac, > Jacob, > 12 Tribes, > Judah, > David, > Jesus >>> the Plan of God unfolding a piece at a time.
- b. **Rightly Dividing Word of Truth** (2 Tim 2:15) “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”.
 - **Orthotomeo** – to cut straight; Stone mason separating small stones from bigger ones, cutting blocks to fit together tightly; separating concepts from the whole, putting them back together to form a belief system.
- c. **Dispensations** – recognition of the different ways that God reveals Himself & His plan within the context of the Angelic Conflict.
 - Each period of history as divided by God corresponds to some aspect of the Angelic Conflict. (Eph 3:1-10)
 - Dispensations enables you, as a believer, to separate scriptures out into the age within which you live.
 - Allows you to follow only what pertains to the age within which you live today – in The Church Age.

Without the clarity that comes from understanding progressive revelation & dispensations, it is inevitable that American pulpits will produce a **mashed-up** version of the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the Words of Jesus, Old Testament rituals - dietary laws & New Testament ideas – a poisonous distortion. We have the antidote to this poison, one that brings understanding and healing to the heart of the believer. Let us be faithful to serve our Lord.

Hope

1. Def-Description: (Elpis): confident expectation, to wait expectantly, having confidence in the future.

- a. **Hope [confidence] is the natural result of faith Rom 15:13;** whatever we believe to be true/real is what we expect to happen. (1Thess 4:13-18) [Rapture]; (Acts 1:10-11) [2nd coming of Jesus Christ]
 - (Rom 8:24; Eph 1:12) – anxious longing; waits eagerly; set free/future; waiting eagerly/adoption; (vs.24) – hope attained is not hope, it's reality!
- b. **Faith & hope must have an object** [believe what?] > (Jn 5:45) Moses: trusting the Mosaic Law to save; (Acts 23:6) resurrection; (Act 26:6) promise of God; (Gal 5:5) imputed righteousness
 - Many mental attitudes are attached to objects such as: faith, hope, fear, love, and anger

- **Objects of Hope:** (Jn 5:45) Mosaic Law; (Acts 23:6) Resurrection; (Acts 26:6) Promise of God; (Rom 5:2) glory of God; (2Cor 1:10) God; (Eph 1:18-22) Calling, riches, power; (Col 1:5) reward heaven (Col 1:23) gospel; (1Thess) 1:3 Christ seated at right hand.

2. Hope begins with the gospel of grace.

(Col 1:5) because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel (Col 1:23)

- Our confidence that we will receive all that is promised in the gospel message - beginning

3. Hope attaches to an image of the future. (Eph 1:17-20) Paul's prayer

- (vs.17) The God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you a message of wisdom & revelation (uncover) full knowledge
 - (vs.18) The eyes of your heart (ability to visualize) having been enlightened (photizo): (God the Holy Spirit shines light) that you may know (oida, lit. to see with eyes or mind, to know completely)
- a. Hope of His calling – attach confidence to an image of all being saved gives our future
 - b. Riches of His glorious inheritance – confidence in an image of riches Christ shares
 - c. Exceeding greatness of His power – image of God using His power on our behalf
- Close your eyes and create an image of being Perfectly Righteous, with God in heaven, indwelt by God the Holy Spirit in a Resurrection body, the glory of Christ fully shining forth, connected to loved ones, the war having been won, all evil locked up, righteous ones ruling with Him.....
 - Invoke this image when you wake, discouraged, lonely & need to be reminded He loves you

(Col 1:27) Christ in you the hope of glory; visualize being in Christ when His victory is full

(Titus 2:13) looking for the blessed hope & appearing of the glory of our great God & Savior, Christ Jesus;

4. Our hope, attached to the next life, is based on the resurrection of Jesus.

(Psalm 16:8-9) I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. (vs.9) Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices: my flesh also shall rest in hope. (Acts 2:23-26)

- Death was a one-way door from Adam until the moment of Christ's resurrection – defeated (1Thess 4:13) compared with the unbeliever who has no hope and no confidence about life after death

5. Our hope, confidence for daily living, attaches to an image of God's grace & promises.

(1 Pet 1:13) Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

(2 Thess. 2:16-17) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself & God our Father, who has loved us & given us eternal comfort & good hope by grace, (vs.17) comfort & strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. (Heb 4:16)

6. Attaching confidence to images of God's promises is a choice that we must make daily.

(1 Pet 1:13) Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Keep your mind aware/alert; attach hope fully-totally on God's grace – for living & forever.
- (Rom 4:18) Abraham when there was no logical hope, kept the hope of God's promise alive