

A CONFIDENT FAITH FOR CONTROVERSIAL TIMES

11. "Hope For Those Who Doubt!"

Scripture: Hebrews 6:13 – 20.

Theme: "Focusing on the promises and purposes of God stimulates a hope that keeps you going and growing through tough times."

Introduction

One of the realities that make our times "controversial" is the prevailing attitude that "all truth is relative." Instead of believing in the existence of absolute, objective truth, the prevalent mindset has defined truth as an "agreed on perspective of a particular culture or community of people."

The shift in "world view" today focuses on the acceptance of naturalism and evolution. Since all existence is the direct result of forces in nature, there is no need to believe in a God from whom and in whom resides ultimate truth. The way one person put it: "Every view point is a view from a point of view." One culture's slant on truth has been tainted by its particular point of view, they say. Another culture may view the same facts and come up with a different conclusion or truth.

With this philosophical perspective growing in popularity, it has become accepted that there are many gods, many faiths and many forms of spiritual expressions from which to choose: They all emanate truth. Morality and ethics are left up to individual choice and most often are shaded and influenced by the media, popular magazines and peer group pressure.

These are all powerful factors that impact today's Christian youth, as well as adults. It creates doubts, uncertainty and skepticism. The sad consequences that result from this mindset leave people feeling empty and vulnerable. There is nothing to live for and nothing worth dying for. Having no truth to believe in and convictions that shape life's values, worth and purpose, the result is people having little hope to face an uncertain future.

Is there a hope when hope is taken away? Is there still room for hope when the world leaves no room for optimism, no foundation for truth?

The writer to the Hebrews assures his readers that Christian hope is anchored in the promises of God. Our hope is no longer a passion for the possible; instead Christians have a passion for the promises. We know there is a God, not only because we can see His intelligent design all around us, but because He has made Himself known in the history of the Jewish people. But ultimate truth is in a person....the Person of Jesus Christ, God's word, who became flesh.

In this lesson we will discover how to develop hope in those who doubt.

I. Doubters Discover Hope By Accepting God's Promises (Heb. 6:9 – 12.)

1. What crisis were these Hebrew Christians facing?
(2:1; 3:12 – 13; 4:1 – 2; 5:11.)

2. What are the evidences of a person's salvation?
(6:9 – 10; Matt. 7:18 – 20; Gal. 5:22 – 23.)

3. To overcome spiritual doubts, what must a person know about God's character? (6:10.)
 - What further convictions are necessary for a person to develop greater confidence in God's character?
(Heb 1:1 – 2; 11:1 – 3, 6; Jn. 1:14; Jn. 14:9 – 10.)

4. What do doubting Christians need to do to make their hope sure?
(Heb. 6:11 – 12.)
 - How are natural feelings of hope different from Christian hope?

5. How can imitating the faith and patience of biblical characters develop confidence in doubting Christians? (6:12.)

II. Doubter's Solidify Hope By Focusing On God's Faithfulness

(Heb. 6:13 – 15.)

1. Why do you suppose the writer introduces the character of Abraham?
(6:13 – 15.)
 - What promise did God make to Abraham? (Gen. 22:17 – 18.)

- Why do you suppose Abraham is singled out as the key example of faith and patience?
(Gen 16:3, 16; 17:1; 21:5.)
 - What do you think is the writer's purpose in referring to Abraham?
(I Cor. 1:9; 10:11; Gal. 3:6 – 9, 29.)
2. How did God guarantee His promise to Abraham?
(6:16 – 17; Gen. 15:17 – 18.)
- How is our faith in Christ a fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham?
(Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:6 – 9.)
 - Who is the True Seed that God promised to Abraham? (Gal. 3:16.)
3. How does the Hebrew writer assure his readers that Christian hope isn't about an unpredictable future, but is anchored in a secure future? (6:13, 18.)

III. **Doubters Anchor Hope In Christ's Priesthood** (Heb. 6:18 – 20.)

1. The writer refers to "two unchangeable things" which assures us that God cannot lie. What are they? (6:18; 6:13, 17.)
 - Why is this fact about God so important in the face of an ever-changing culture?
2. What happens to those who take hold of the hope Christ offers? (6:18.)

- Why should this scripture be of encouragement to us as Christians who are spiritual children of Abraham?
3. What is the function of an anchor? How does it illustrate Christian hope?
 4. How does Jesus, as our Great High Priest, become the anchor of our hope? (6:20; 2:10 – 11; Jn. 14:1 – 3.)

Concluding Thoughts:

We are all moving into the future, a future that is unpredictable and we cannot control. We never do our hoping without hoping for something and hoping in someone or something. Hope is our passion for something in the future. Hope is that power that moves us forward into that uncertain future. With a faith in God, who has revealed Himself and who holds the future we now can develop a confident hope, a hope that is more than imagining possibilities, but a hope that God has made promises and He keeps His promises.