

Peace, hope and love of Salvation

When we are uncertain about the future we are filled with anxiety. When we are given a sure hope of the future our anxieties are dispelled and we find rest – peace – within our hearts and minds. When our hope is given by someone we know loves us then we are assured of the validity of the hope given.

Romans 5: 1 – 11

1) Peace with God

- A great many people are trying to make peace, but that has already been done. God has not left it for us to do; all we have to do is to enter into it.

Dwight Lyman Moody (1837–1899)

- Many times we live in anxiety because we don't believe that we have been justified
 - This is why justification is only applicable to us when we believe even though it is offered to us freely before we believe.
- We have anxiety because we don't know what our future holds
- We are anxious because we are really sure what will happen to us after we die
- We are anxious because we aren't sure if God will accept us or not.
- There are many other reasons why we could be anxious
- When we believe in the work that Jesus did on the cross – that he died for our sins, was buried and rose again breaking the power of sin and death over us – God accepts us and declares us innocent of all sin.
- When He declares us innocent He is also declaring that we are no longer His enemies but we are now His friends. We are now at peace with God. We no longer need to be anxious about whether He will send us to hell or not because having believed we have already passed from death to life – we have already received the eternal life that He promised.
- We now just need to rest in the fact that we stand in God's grace because we have believed.
 - If we stand in God's grace that means that our whole lives – every part of our lives – are included in that grace and not just our souls or spirits.
- Thus having believed He has made us His children and as His children we can commit all aspects of our lives to Him because we know that He cares for us.
- It is no use trusting God for our salvation but then being anxious about our families, our jobs, our future.
 - Let us trust God for everything and let the peace of God rule our whole lives.

2) The Hope of Glory

- When we have been justified and received by the Lord we can also rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
- Before we believed in Christ we had no hope but through believing in Jesus He has set us on the road of hope.
- Hope is like someone who has gone underground into a maze of tunnels and gets lost. He is anxious and full of fear. He does not know the way out. The air is not fresh. He starts to panic. But then he sees some light. He smells fresh

air. He knows that he must be close to a way out of the maze of tunnels. He starts rejoicing in this hope.

- So it is with us. We were lost in our sin when Christ came and opened our eyes to see His light. we rejoice in this eternal hope.
- A person without hope has nothing to live for and so sees no reason to put much effort into life
- A person with hope lives life with purpose and determination because he sees that there is a future in everything he does.
- But sometimes this hope comes at a price
 - Suffering produces perseverance
 - Perseverance produces character
 - Character produces hope
- Hope is based on the love of God that has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that He has given us
 - The Holy Spirit within us confirms the hope that has been given to us.

3) The love of God

- The love of God that is now within us is the same love that He loved us with when we were still sinners and Christ died for us.
- It is beyond our understanding why God would love us so much that Christ would die for us when we were still sinners.
 - God can love in this way because He is love – love is His nature, His character
 - When God loves He doesn't look to see how lovable the person is and whether they are worthy to be loved or not. God loves because He is love.
 - God's love is proactive and not reactive.
- ^{1JN 3:16} This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
- Now that we know the love of God we are assured, because of the purity of His love, that His wrath has passed from us because we have been reconciled to God who loves us.
- Thus the peace and hope of God are rooted in His love for us
- If we do not know His love then we need to come to Him and ask Him to reveal His love to us personally that we know that we can trust Him because He loves us.
- And having trusted Him we gain peace and hope in Him.