

## THE HOPE WITHIN YOU

### I. 1 Peter 3:13-18

A. One of the things I pray for with respect to this family of believers is that you would be asked about the hope within you, about your relationship with Jesus Christ. Where do I get such a notion? Our text today will totally explain.

B. Such questions about your faith can come in various ways. The likelihood that a friend or stranger will walk up to you and say, 'Ah-hem, could you give me a full account of the hope within you?' is quite small. More likely it will come with questions like: "You seem different, what's happened to you?" or "You used to be a big partier so did you get religion or something?!" or "The way you handled this or that crisis or problem points to a huge change in your life-what's responsible for this?" or "I hear you go to church now-what's up with that?!"

C. When it comes to Peter and his fellow apostles, they had seen the best of times and the worst of times with respect to the Gospel. *The Way* (Christianity) initially took off like a rocket. Peter's Pentecost sermon brought in 3,000 souls. Soon 2,000 more were added. The Bible says early on people were being added to the church daily. The church was growing like a weed (or like genetically engineered wheat). At first, believers were deemed cool and impressive. But eventually they weren't cool anymore. Persecution broke out near and far. The church scattered and persecutors gave chase. Many of the people receiving Peter's words were among those suffering for their faith. They were paying a steep price for believing in Jesus. Peter's encouragement is not only fitting for them, it's fitting for us too.

D. 1 Peter 3:13-18 (ESV) a message for those who possess a certain kind of Hope...

1) **V13: 13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? (Paul wrote similarly in Romans 8:31: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?")

2) **V14: 14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, (Jesus promised this would happen. John 15:18-21 (NLT) reminds: **18** If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first. **19** The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. **20** Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to Me, they would listen to you. **21** They will do all this to you because of Me, for they have rejected the One who sent Me.) (Maybe Peter took notes during the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:18-20 (ESV) says: **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.) (An article out this week: It reveals how Johnny Cash's longtime manager split with him in 1973. He was loyal to Cash to a fault, stayed with him through his addictions, wild parties, criminal arrests, AWOL from concerts, even a bitter divorce. But guess what led to their breakup? Johnny became a believer in Christ and his manager, Jewish by birth and atheist by faith, saw this as the last straw!)

3) **V15: 15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; (OV ready to give an account; prepared to give the reason; ready to explain;) yet do it with gentleness and respect, (Defending without being defensive or annoyingly offensive!)

4) **V16-17: 16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (Godly words backed up by a Godly walk, in all humility.)

5) **V18: (And here's the Gospel) 18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit...

E. So what kind of *hope* are we talking about? *Hope* as a word can be watered down drastically, depending on its object. In our day it may be nothing more than wishful thinking. We might *hope* for the Buckeyes to win their next game or *hope* to win the lottery or *hope* we have a great weekend getaway. But the *Hope* Peter is referring to is inseparable from the person of Jesus. Hope is the anchor of our souls if indeed it's latched securely onto Christ. When Peter refers to you being asked about the *Hope* within you, he's ultimately talking about a Person. Charles Spurgeon puts it simply and superbly: "Without Christ there is no hope."

F. Have you ever been asked about the Hope within you? If not, here's a few possibilities to ponder. You may not be asked about the *Hope* within you IF:

1) Your *Hope* is camouflaged by other things; less important things that you've elevated as higher priorities. Your *Hope* is hidden by competing agendas-all vying for your time and attention. The Lord is important but not the most important. People tend to ask about the things you consider the most important.

2) People can't see your Hope because all your sinfulness obstructs their view. They may've heard you possess Hope but your actions speak louder and contrary to such a notion. *'His hypocrisy is obvious but we don't see Hope!'*

3) You're ashamed of Hope that you have. The fear of being obnoxious or rejected robs your courage and so you end up doing everything you can to conceal your relationship with Christ. You hide your lamp under a bushel. Jesus uttered some scary words in **Mark 8:36-38** (NKJV) **36** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **37** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.)

4) The last possibility is the most frightening: You don't actually have the Hope within you. People don't ask because you do not possess it. Perhaps it's time to change all that. *"You have not because ye ask not!"* So ask!

G. Like Zacchaeus, come down outta your tree! Like Bartimaeus, ask God to give you sight! Like the thief on the cross, turn to Jesus and ask Him to become His! Like Lazarus, come out of your tomb! I believe He's been calling for you to come forth! Receive Jesus and receive Hope! Hope for today; Hope for living; Hope in dying; sure and certain Hope for resurrection; Hope forevermore!

\* Close with Prayer...

### [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

#### [1 Peter 3:13-18 \(ESV\)](#)

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. **18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit...

#### [John 15:18-21 \(NLT\)](#)

**18** If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first. **19** The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. **20** Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted Me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to Me, they would listen to you. **21** They will do all this to you because of Me, for they have rejected the One who sent Me.

#### [Matthew 5:18-20 \(ESV\)](#)

**10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#### [Mark 8:36-38 \(NKJV\)](#)

**36** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? **37** Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **38** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

#### [Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon](#)

"Without Christ there is no hope."

### [Film Clips & Other Links](#)

Millersport Covenant Church Sermon Podcasts (MP3s on iTunes)

<http://millersportcc.com/feed/podcast>

1 Peter 3:15 - John Piper - Desiring God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCjAllsW1KE>

Mark 8:38 - Lyrical Disciplez (Rap Song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKzW-i3AjLs>

"I'm Not Ashamed" - Jeremy Camp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wb21LfYdH0>

For Jesus Christ I Am Unashamed -PastPresentFuture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-039VzwBlvw>

### Bonus Stuff

#### Psalm 42:5 (NIV)

**5** Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.

#### Isaiah 41:9-10 (NIV)

**9** I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are My servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. **10** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

#### Luke 9:23-26 (Amplified)

**23** And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]. **24** For whoever wishes to save his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], but whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake, he is the one who will save it [from the consequences of sin and separation from God]. **25** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world [wealth, fame, success], and loses or forfeits himself? **26** For whoever is ashamed [here and now] of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory and the glory of the [heavenly] Father and of the holy angels.

#### Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)

**16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. **17** For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed--a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

#### Quote by R.C. Sproul

"Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a 'wish' (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made."

#### Quote by John C. Broger

"The hope that God has provided for you is not merely a wish. Neither is it dependent on other people, possessions, or circumstances for its validity. Instead, biblical hope is an application of your faith that supplies a confident expectation in God's fulfillment of His promises. Coupled with faith and love, hope is part of the abiding characteristics in a believer's life."

#### Quote by John Calvin

"The word hope I take for faith; and indeed hope is nothing else but the constancy of faith."

#### Quote by Rex Rouis

"Hope is the raw material from which faith builds the house."

#### Quote by Mr. Unknown

"When Christians are the good news, people will hear the Good News."

#### My Hope Is Built/The Solid Rock

Words: by Edward Mote; Tune: *Solid Rock*, by William Bradbury, 1863

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

Chorus

On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found.  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.