

Hope is our strategy – Lords Supper Meditation May 2020

Recently in my work, which by the way is a toilet paper factory 😊 , we were heading into a weekend and there was one of my engineers expressed some concern about the amount of raw material available. When I questioned the man further, his response was that he “hoped” we could make it.

My immediate response was “HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY”. That was a phrase that was drilled into me several years ago by my boss. As soon as I made that statement in front of many other employees, I began to really think about the meaning of it and how much HOPE IS a pivotal part of my faith. The intent for the statement at work was the fact there existed data to know for certain if we had the ample supply of raw materials. And with a little effort and seeking knowledge, the data would be conclusive. If the data concluded the business was at risk of not having enough materials, alternate plans could be made in advance. Hope in that case, was simply left to chance in the circumstance with the absence of knowledge.

My mind then went immediately to the old gospel hymn, “The Solid Rock”, in which it starts out. “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness”

We have a hope that is not subject to chance, but rather well documented in the truths of scripture.

Hebrews 11:1

This is our go to scripture to find the definitions for faith, but it also indicates that hope precedes faith it says:

Now faith is the ^[a]assurance of *things* ^[b]hoped for, the ^[c]conviction of things not seen.

Romans 8:24-25

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it

1 Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Romans 5:5-6

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

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These next 2 verses provide clear data that our hope in Christ goes beyond this life. Paul makes the following two statements:

1 Corinthians 15:19

¹⁹ If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Colossians 1:4-5

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have ^[a]for all the ^[b]saints; ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in ^[c]heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, ^[d]the gospel

Conclusion:

I'm sure you can see from these verses that **HOPE IS OUR STRATEGY**. It is accompanied by our faith in the gospel message, which we have obeyed: The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our hope IS built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.

Let that truth resonate with you every day of this coming week.

May you be blessed as we remember Jesus together and partake of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine that reminds of his amazing sacrifice on the cross that provides our great hope. May you find peace during this worldwide time of uncertainty in the hope of Jesus Christ.

Please pray with me:

Our Father in Heaven, how thankful we are to be called children of yours. Thank you for the blessed hope we have through your Son, Jesus, who submitted to your will and died the most brutal death possible, so that we could have life eternal. Please bless these emblems, the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine that reminds of Jesus sinless body, so beaten, and we thank you for the shed blood, for by it we are forgiven, and have the hope of eternal life in Heaven with you. May this remembrance be a time of spiritual renewal for those who partake this day. We ask for your forgiveness for the sins we have committed. We pray this in your precious Son's name, Jesus Christ, Amen.