

God's Assurance, Our Hope

Hebrews 6:13-20

In this life chances are that at some point each of us will face a situation that seems hopeless. It may involve your marriage, your children, your health, your finances, your reputation, or any number of things. In such a place it can be tempting to quit trusting God and turn back to an old way of life. As we look at today's passage we will be reminded that in Jesus we have a hope that is sure. It is a hope that trumps any hopelessness we might experience in this life. It is a hope that helps us trust God instead of reverting back to some inferior way of living.

Read Hebrews 6:11-20

1. What sticks out to you in this passage?

2. What is the challenge that the author puts before the Hebrews in verses 11 and 12?

3. In verse 13, the author speaks of God making a promise to Abraham and then giving double assurance by making an oath. The promise that God made was that He would make Abraham a great nation (Gen. 12:1-3), which would begin with the birth of a son. What was the "hopeless" situation that Abraham faced regarding this promise to him? And in what way does Abraham serve as an example of faith that we should seek to imitate (see Gen. 22:1-18)?

4. Just as God did with Abraham, God gives us, "heirs of the promise," double assurance through both a promise and an oath (v. 17). He does this that we might have encouragement and hope (v. 18). How is this hope described (vv.18-20)?

5. As we move from thinking about Abraham to our own lives, is there any area in your life right now in which you feel a need for hope?

Steve said:

Based on this passage, my encouragement to each of us is to see our hopeless situations in light of the ultimate hope we have in Christ. Here's one way to think about it . . . Envision a timeline that stretches from eternity past to eternity future. Our time here on earth is merely a "dot" on that timeline. Even though this life seems long and tortured at times, our time on earth is merely a dot. Today's passage tells us that our confidence/hope about our eternal future should affect the way we live the dot.

6. How might such a perspective on eternity affect how you live on the dot?

Steve said:

The author says that this hope "enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us." In the temple in Jerusalem, the veil was a thick cloth over the entrance to the holy of holies. The high priest "entered within the veil" once a year on the Day of Atonement. Our confidence is that we will one day enter within the veil permanently; we will spend eternity in the very presence of God Himself.

7. How might a confident hope of having, not just an eternal future, but an eternal future in the very presence of God affect how you deal with hopeless situations in the present?

8. What do you sense is the main thing God is saying to you through this passage?