

I. Have You Ever Been Asked About Your Hope?

1 Peter 3:14b-15

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...

Key Idea

We have been given the eyes of faith to see God's immeasurable *power* and *wealth*. Let us prepare ourselves to share this glorious hope.

II. Why Do We Hope in the Gospel?

A. We Were Given Eyes to See through Faith
(John 3:1-15; Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Ephesians 1:15-16a

¹⁵ *For this reason*, because I have heard of **your faith** in the Lord Jesus and **your love** toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to *give thanks for you*...

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In him *you also*, when you heard *the word of truth, the gospel* of *your salvation*, and *believed in him*, were *sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, *to the praise of his glory*.

Ephesians 1:3-4a

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him *before the foundation of the world*...

B. We are Living for Real Wealth

Ephesians 1:16b-20

...remembering **you** in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him**, ¹⁸ having **the eyes of your hearts** enlightened, **that you may know** what is the *hope* to which he has called you, what are the *riches* of his *glorious inheritance* in the saints.

Colossians 1:27

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the **riches** of the glory of this mystery, **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be *rich in good works*, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus **storing up treasure** for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is **truly life**.

1. Living to Serve
2. The Perfections of the Cross

C. We are Trusting in Real Power

1. Death is no Obstacle

Ephesians 1:15-20

...**that you may know** ... *hope* ... the *riches* of his *glorious inheritance* in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his **power** toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he *raised him from the dead* and *seated him at his right hand* in the heavenly places...

2. Food is no Obstacle

Mark 8:17-18

“*Why are you discussing* the fact that you have no **bread**? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? ¹⁸ Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear?”

3. Our Sin is no Obstacle

1 Peter 1:13, 22-25

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace** that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ...

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God**; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and **all its glory** like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but **the word of the Lord remains forever**.”

And this word is the *good news* that was preached to you.

III. Meditate on These Things to Be Prepared

A. Humble/Bold Witness

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

B. True Power & Riches are Found in Jesus

Revelation 3:18 (Hebrews 4)

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be **rich**, and **white garments** so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may **see**.