

Hope of a Healthy Heart

Proverbs 13:12

Believers can have healthy hearts while waiting for God to fulfill their heavenly hopes.

Hopes of the Heart

False hopes

Frustrated hopes

Firm hopes

Diseases of the Heart

Disappointment

Resentment

Discouragement

Bitterness

Depression

Cynicism

Despair

Christlike character blossoms even in the desert

Desires of the Righteous

They will be granted (10:24)

They are only good (11:23; Ps.84:11)

They are granted by delighting in God (Ps.37:4)

Our Ultimate HOPE will be fulfilled (Rev.2:7; 22:2,14,19)

God's Tree of Life is bearing good fruit in us now

Are you headed toward utter despair or eternal delight?

Tabletalk Questions

For 9-19-10 sermon

"Hope of a Healthy Heart" Proverbs 13:12

Wisdom, as used in Proverbs, has been defined as the skill needed to live a productive life that pleases God. Why is this vital for the desires (10:24; 11:23) and hopes of the righteous (13:12)?

What are some things in which people put their hope? What is the difference between blind optimism and Biblical Hope?

In what ways can "hope deferred" develop our character (Rom.8:22-25)? What is God's cure for a "sick" heart (Rom.5:1-5)?

When your hopes have been dashed, did you readjust your expectations, or give up on that particular hope? How would it affect the condition of your heart if those hopes were "fulfilled"?

Why should God's goodness and mercy in Christ help us view the future with faith-filled hope? What practical ways can you set your hope on God for the future (see insert in bulletin)?

HOPE

In God. Ps.39:7; 1 Pet.1:21
In Christ. 1 Cor.15:19; 1 Tim.1:1
In the promises of God. Acts 22:6,7; Titus 1:2
In the mercy of God. Ps.33:18

Is the work of the Holy Spirit. Rom.15:13; Gal.5:5

Obtained through...

Grace. 2 Thes.2:16
The Word. Ps.119:81
Patience and comfort of the Scriptures. Rom.15:4
The Gospel. Col.1:5,23
Faith. Rom.5:1,2; Gal.5:5

The result of experience. Rom.5:4
A better hope brought in by Christ. Heb.7:19

Described as...

Good. 2 Thes.2:16
Living. 1 Pet.1:3
Sure and steadfast. Heb.6:19
Gladness. Prov.10:28
Blessed. Titus 2:13

Does not disappoint. Rom.5:5
Triumphs over difficulties. Rom.4:18
Is encouragement to boldness in preaching. 2 Cor.3:12

Saints...

Are called to. Eph.4:4
Rejoice in. Rom.5:2; 12:12
Have all, the same. Eph.4:4
Have, in death. Prov.14:32
Should abound in. Rom.15:13
Should look for the object of. Titus 2:13
Should not be ashamed of. Ps.119:16
Should hold fast. Heb.3:6
Should not be moved from. Col.1:23
Should continue in. Ps.71:14; 1 Pet.1:13

Connected with faith and love. 1 Cor.13:13

Objects of...

Salvation. 1 Thes.5:8
Righteousness. Gal.5:5
Christ's glorious appearing. Titus 2:13
A resurrection. Acts 23:6; 24:15
Eternal life. Titus 1:2; 3:7
Glory. Rom.5:2; Col.1:27

Leads to purity. 1 John 3:3

Leads to patience. Rom.8:25; 1 Thes.1:3
Seek for full assurance of. Heb.6:11
Be ready to give an answer concerning. 1 Pet.3:15
Encouragement to. Hos.2:15; Zech.9:12
Encourage others to. Ps.130:7
Happiness of. Ps.146:5
Life is the season of. Eccl.9:4; Isa.38:18
The wicked have no ground for. Eph.2:12

Of the wicked...

Is in their worldly possessions. Job 31:24
Will make them ashamed. Isa.20:5,6; Zech.9:5
Will perish. Job 8:13; 11:20; Prov.10:28
Will be extinguished at death. Job 27:8

Illustrated by...

An Anchor. Heb.6:19
A helmet. 1 Thes.5:8

Exemplified...

David. Ps.39:7
Paul. Acts 24:15
Abraham. Rom.4:18
Thessalonians. 1 Thes.1:3

From *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p.2091.

* * * * *

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”
Luke 11:13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Rom.15:13