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New Creation Teaching Ministry: Rev. Ian Pennicook

The Pastor and The Ministry of Hope

Knowing the Goal

Jas.5:7-11 says that the goal (Gk.telos) of God is to be known and the believers are to function in the context of that goal. Cf. Eph.5:17, where the "will of the Lord" relates to the eternal purpose of God (Eph.1:3-10 etc). The goal of the Lord includes our final revelation and vindication (Lu.18:1-8; Rom.8:18-21).

The Dynamic of Hope

1 Pet. 1:3-9: We have been born anew to a living hope, which contrasts with a dead hope (Wisd.13:10 "But miserable, with their hopes set on dead things, are the men who give the name 'gods' to the works of men's hands . . ."; Heb.9:27 etc). Ours is a hope which will not perish or fade (Rom.5:5a). Cf 1 Pet.1:11, the "subsequent glory" of Christ; Lu.24:26, 44-46; Mk.8:31-33 etc. and of us, Heb.2:10; Rom.8:17-30)

Hope is powerful 1 Pet.1:13; 3:5; 1 Jn.3:1-3. It is the element which provokes interest (1 Pet.3:15), doubtless because of the strong contrast (Eph.2:12; 1 Thess.4:13; Prov.11:7; 14:12; Heb. 2:15 etc.).

Hope in the Old Testament

It may be possible to say that Adam had a hope. It may seem unrelated to hope as we know it, but Adam did know where he was going in life; he had his mandate (Gen.1:28ff) and could live under it without fear. However, Biblical hope is always related redemption

Throughout the O.T., the promises of God were a rich stimulus, eg. Abraham. There are repeated exhortations to hope in the Lord (Pss. 31:24; 33:22; 42:5,11; 43:5), to hope in his word (Pss. 119:74, 81, 114, 147; 130:5), in his steadfast love/mercy (Ps.33:18; 147:11; Lam.3:21-22) which relates to his salvation (Ps. 119:166 cf. Ps. 51:12) and thus to vindication (Pss. 17:2; 24:5; 26:1; 35:24; 37:6; 43:1; 54:1).

The prophetic hope: God is "the hope of Israel" (Jer.14:8; 17:13; 50:7) who gives hope (Jer.29:11; 31:17; Hos. 2:15). What was not immediately obvious was the way Israel's hope was fulfilled in one person (2 Cor. 1:20; cf. Lu. 2:25, 38; 24:44-45).

The Cross and Hope

Rom. 4:13 - 5:5. The justifying faith of Abraham was faith in the promise of God, ie. his faith gave him a strong hope. That is the pattern for our faith. The Cross is both present reality and powerful promise ((cf. 1 Pet. 1:3 "through the resurrection"). It is only when we are gripped by the Cross and its justifying work that we are thrust into a

rich hope (Rom.5:2, 5; 8:18). Each proclamation of the Cross is also a powerful promise (1 Cor. 11:26; Phil. 1:6)

Living in Hope

2 Thess.2:16-17. Anticipation of redemption of the body/resurrection (Rom.8:17-30; Acts 24:15; 26:6; cf. 28:20; based on Christ's resurrection 1 Pet. 1:3; Acts 2;26-27; Rom. 6:4-5; Phil. 3:10-14). The hope of righteousness (justification Gal. 5:5), salvation (1 Thess 5:8; Rom.13:11), eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7), glory (Rom.5:1-2; 8:18-25, 28-30; Col. 2:27; cf. Eph. 1:17f; 1 Jn. 3:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:6-10; Col. 3:1-4) and our inheritance (Col. 1:5; Eph. 1:18 cf. 1:13-14; Col. 1:12; 1 Cor. 1:7-9; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5).