

January 1, 2012

## LOOKING FORWARD – IN HOPE

Introduction: When we reflect on the experiences and events of 2011, as we look to the future, many of us inclined to say, “I \_\_\_\_\_ 2012 is \_\_\_\_\_.”

### I. The Nature of Hope

A. It's Source: The \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:13)

B. It's Characteristics

1. Expectation of something \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Expectation of something \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:24-25).

3. Expectation of something \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Note: Hope is not the same as \_\_\_\_\_.

C. It's Basis: (1 Peter 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:16-20): The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

D. It's Content

1. Our own \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 23:6)

2. The glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (Titus 2:13)

3. The ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ (rehabilitation) of creation (and our bodies) from decay (Romans 8:20-23).

4. Our eternal \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Summary: Biblical hope focuses on the expectation of our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ's ultimate restoration of all things. (“\_\_\_\_\_ will be better!”)

II. **Criticism of Christian Hope:** Those who focus on “pie in the sky when they die” are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of life's realities.

Response by C. S. Lewis: “Those who have done most for this present world are those who have \_\_\_\_\_ of the next.”

### III. The Impact of Hope

- A. Hope \_\_\_\_\_ my *frame of reference* -- Hope looks to the \_\_\_\_\_ and insists that the present situation is not the last word. Things are going to \_\_\_\_\_
1. If this life is all there is: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. If this life is a prelude to and preparatory for the next, I can live this life \_\_\_\_\_ what is coming.
- B. Hope changes my \_\_\_\_\_ and my *mission* (Acts 1:9-11)
1. From my kingdom to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:33)
  2. From solo to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 6:1)
  3. From sovereign to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- C. Hope transforms my *prospects* from failure to success – and \_\_\_\_\_ me in the present (2 Corinthians 4:1, 16-18)
- D. Hope transforms my *perspective* on various experiences of life –
1. When I experience the *joys* and delights of this world – **eager** \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)
  2. When I encounter *hardship* on the pathway of holiness and service – \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18)
  3. When I experience *anxiety* from the threat of temporal loss – \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 6:18-19)
  4. When I experience *disappointment* when my efforts fall short of my aspirations – **expectation of** \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 5:5; Revelation 21:4)
  5. When I experience the *pain* of physical or emotional disintegration – \_\_\_\_\_ **for what's ahead** (Romans 8:18-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
  6. When I experience *grief* over the loss of anything or anyone beloved – \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
  7. When I anticipate the *excitement* of meeting Jesus face-to-face – \_\_\_\_\_ (pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_) (1 John 3:2-3)

### IV. Our Response to Hope

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:13)
- B. Be ready to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ for your hope (1 Peter 3:15)