

“Heavenly Hope”

Joel 2:12-13

August 16, 2020

INTRO:

- Welcome to worship... **HOPE happens here!**
- *Biblical hope happens in hearts of holy believers!* JDP

CONTEXT:

- **Series** on **Patterns**
- **Sermons** on **HOPE**
 - ***Holy, Healing, Healthy, HIS, Harmonizing***

VIDEO: “Hope”

“Hope is the inextinguishable flicker God ignites in our souls to keep us believing in the prevailing power of His light, even when we are surrounded by utter darkness.” - Lee Strobel

- **Scripture** in focus... **JOEL**
 - **“The Day of the LORD”**
 - ***The LORD of the day(s)***

2:12-13

*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for ***He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love/lovingkindness; and He relents over disaster.****

BIG IDEA: ***Heavenly hope heals hell’s horrors!***

T/S: Hope looks in four (4) directions: (*Mere Hope*)

1. Look **DOWN** at the **FOUNDATION** of hope – **The Gospel**.
2. Look **IN** at the **FOUNTAIN** of hope – **Jesus the Christ**.
3. Look **OUT** at the **FLOURISHING** of hope – the **Great Commission**.
4. Look **UP** at the **FOCUS** of hope – **eternal life with God in heaven**.

PREVIEW:

1. **GRACIOUS** Love
2. **MERCIFUL** Love
3. **PATIENT** Love
4. **ABOUNDING** Love
5. **STEADFAST** Love
6. **RELENTING** Love
7. **ETERNAL** Love

T/S: Look to the cross of Christ for heavenly hope!

1. GRACIOUS Love

Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious...

- A. Creating Creation...
- B. Care & Compassion
- C. Christ's Coming & Cleansing CROSS
- D. Church family Captured by grace

Colossians 1:27

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

2. MERCIFUL Love

*Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious... **and merciful,***

- A. Sustained vs. Shut-down life...
- B. Sacrificial Atonement System
- C. Sent & Sacrificed Son & Savior
- D. Saves of Sinners
- E. Sanctifies of Sinners

3. PATIENT Love

*Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger,*

- A. **Get this right....** *“Slow to anger”*
 - i. **NOTE:** “slow” reveals patient love...
 - ii. **Slow... does not mean NO to anger!**
 - iii. **God is slow to anger means He angers**
- B. **Scriptural samples:**
 - i. Garden of Eden
 - ii. Noah & the Flood
 - iii. Sodom & Gomorrah
 - iv. Moses
 - v. Israelites
 - vi. Prophets
 - vii. Jesus with Paul
 - viii. Jesus with Peter
 - ix. Jesus in the Temple
 - x. Jesus with you and me **(Romans 5:8)**
- C. **VIDEO:** *Don't misunderstand God's patience!*

4. **ABOUNDING** Love

*Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, **and abounding** (in steadfast love...)*

NOTE: Bad/wrong exegesis here will lead to a hellish continuum of heresy, with a damnable range from “cheap grace-ism,” all the way to Universalism.

God’s abounding is uncontainable holiness AND love...

His abounding is filled & full...

His abounding is *overflowing*...

Imagine standing beneath Niagara or Victoria Falls with a coffee cup in your hands... In that moment your cup would be abounding with water... Yet, if you were to stand under that waterfall for 10,000 years, your cup would not even come close, by comparison, to the abounding (with love) that our Lord has for us!

This is a QUANTITY of LOVE that cannot be measured!

Philippians 1:9-11 = praying for love/witness to abound!

2 Cor. 9:8 = abounding grace for abounding works!!!

5. **STEADFAST** Love

*Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding **in steadfast love**;*

- A. **Unmovable** & unshakable love...
- B. **Lover** of the unlovely...
- C. **Prophets** sent into perversion...
- D. **Prodigal's** & Pharisaical's Father...
- E. **Consider Him...** For the joy set before Him...
- F. **Christ came** for His sacrificial crucifixion...
- G. Think of His love component in **Salvation...**
- H. Think of His love component in **Sanctification...**
- I. Think of His love component in **Glorification...**
- J. **Koinonia** is His steadfast love gifted to/for us!

*This is a **QUALITY** of **LOVE** that cannot be marginalized!*

But why all the hate over heavenly hope?

If you champion Christ's steadfast love **you will be hated...**
because Heavenly hope is exclusive hope!

**Heavenly hope is birthed out of and built upon
personal hopelessness!** JDP

VIDEO: *"Upside Down World – Demetrius"*

*To understand heavenly hope, you've got to recognize that
idol lovers have a hellish hate for heavenly hope. - JDP*

Idol holders hate God's hopeful! - JDP

1 Peter 1:3-5

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ...to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and
unfading, kept in heaven for you, who, by God's power, are
being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.*

*“As sure as Christ’s grave is empty...
our hope is alive...”*

*“Hope in the New Testament is often connected to the
resurrection and the life that is found as a result of being ‘in
Christ’... Just as Christian hope is only found IN HIM, in a real
sense, it ultimately IS Him. Hope at the most profound level is
not an abstract concept but a living Person... The highest
hope of a believer is Jesus Himself. Thus, holding on to hope
involves clinging to the promises and person of Christ.”*

- Spellman

6. RELENTING Love

*Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and He relents over disaster.*

When we repent, He relents!

There is NO valor or victory in being the best
of the broken & mediocrw. - JDP

You don't want to be first in line heading into hell! - JDP

The best of the hell-bound are still bound for hell! - JDP

*Don't let the reality of regret limit or control you... While sin has consequences, neither your sin nor its consequence needs to be your defining truth. Jesus the Christ & His cleansing cross can change ANYTHING & Everything... ANYONE and EVERYONE! He has a miraculous way of hitting holy bullseyes with broken & crooked arrows! So do not let your past corrupt your present and/or steal your future... By God's grace & for God's glory, Hope happens here, as HE alone can turn your miserable past into a Missional future, it that be His will, through a miraculous present... If you, as a sinner, will repent & believe, HE will relent & become your Savior. When you abide & obey, He abounds & preserves... no matter what!
Now, that's heavenly hope! - JDP*

7. ETERNAL Love

I'm not here to entertain you for an hour...
but rather, to equip you for eternity! - JDP

Contrast Here-only hope...	from temporary lusts!
Contrast Heard-about hope...	from empty myths/dreams.
Contrast Hurtful hope...	from delusions & deceptions
Contrast Hellish hope...	from lies and liars

Heavenly hope destroys here-only & all other hellish hopes...

VIDEO: Piper – “Never Abandon Hope”

*“The first recorded divine promise, (that **the woman’s seed would crush the serpent’s head**), was a **word of hope** in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15), and the last recorded promise of Jesus, ‘**I am coming soon**’ (Revelation 22:20), was a **word of hope** for churches facing persecution. Hebrews 11:1 **defines faith in terms of hope** (‘**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for**’). **Hope**, the guaranteed expectation enabling believers to look forward with **joy**, is in truth, one of the great themes of Christianity and one of the supreme gifts of God.” - J.I. Packer*

CLOSE:

*Heavenly hope is the fruit of biblical faith in Christ & God’s:
(1) Gracious Love, (2) Merciful Love, (3) Patient Love, (4)
Abounding Love, (5) Steadfast Love, (6) Relenting Love, & (7)
Eternal Love!*

*Heavenly hope is the fruit & the finale of HIS hope, Holy hope,
Healing hope, Healthy hope, & Harmonizing hope!*

Praise God!

Because HE abounds in love... WE abound in hope!
And because we abound in His hope, we share His love!

Let’s **PRAY!**