

# Hope's Labor of Love

Abounding Hope - Week 3 (1-10-24)

1 Thes. 1:3

- Labor = Kopos - work; labor; toil; trouble; cut; reducing; pains; trouble

## I. Hope and Love

### A. Hope - Hebrews 6:18-19

1. "Which hope **we have...**" If you have Christ, you have hope! There is no hopeless situation with God. With Him all things are possible! (Mat. 19:26)

### B. An Anchor speaks to certainty and stability amidst rough waters.

1. When we have full confidence in our anchor we are of one mind and are not easily swayed or tossed by the wind and waves of this world. (James 1:5-8)
2. Stability breeds stability. Hope is contagious.
  - a) Those who are weak and unstable can find refuge in those that are more stable.
    - (1) "Lean on me when you're not strong. I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on."
    - (2) Remember that the only thing that won't ever let you down is Jesus. People have their faults and limitations, but the God in them does not!

### C. What does hope have to do with the labor of love?

1. Jesus loved to His own hurt and death because He had hope.
  - a) Hebrews 12:2 (AMP) "[looking away from all that will distract us and] focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame..."
  - b) How did Jesus have hope in spite of knowing what He would have to go through?
    - (1) **He knew the Father**, and trusted Him and His plan.
2. God loved us, therefore we have hope. Because we have hope we can love like God loves.
  - a) Romans 5:5
  - b) 1 John 4:16-19
3. How can I stay anchored in Christ when love takes me to troubling waters?
  - a) Keep the object of your hope at the forefront of your mind.
  - b) Pray without ceasing - never stop listening
  - c) Stay grateful - rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice

## II. What does the labor of love actually look like?

### A. Luke 10:27-28

1. The lawyer wanted to put stipulations on God's love, but God and His love have no limits.
2. If we follow in this order, love God and then love your neighbor, then we can love like God loves. Even when it is hard.

B. Ministry is not about WHAT is needed, but about WHO is needed.

1. John 6:31-35

a) It's not what (the bread), it's who (Jesus IS the bread).

(1) He has already been given, it's already done. There is nothing more to receive than Jesus Himself.

2. This applies to you personally and anyone that you may be ministering to. Family, friends, strangers - it all applies the same.

3. Our labor of love is about helping each other to look to Jesus for all of our needs.

4. Do Not Forget that you are not anyone's savior, and whatever you are able to do for someone does not originate from you but from God!

a) 1 Corin. 12:4-7

(1) It all comes from the same source.

(2) The goal of ministry is never for anyone to be dependent on people, but solely on God. That can be from Him directly or through other people.

C. The labor of love works from the inside out, making it much more intimate and vulnerable.

1. It's easy to throw money at a situation. It's not so easy to walk with someone through their drug addiction, emotional instability, financial irresponsibility, etc.

a) God's love penetrates the heart, and allows the external corrections to come as a result of a healed heart.

Galatians 6:9-10