

The Gift of Giving

(Giving Hope)

The Gifts of God - Week 16 (3-1-23)

Romans 15:13

I. What is Hope?

- A. Putting our hope in something means we are depending on it/leaning on it/ trusting in it.
 - 1. From the world's idea of hope is very uncertain because everything they lean on is unstable and lets them down.
 - 2. The biblical idea of hope is confident expectation because it's based on God's word and He never fails and never lies.
- B. Hebrews 11:1
 - 1. Faith is the foundation of hope
 - 2. Faith works by love - Galatians 5:6
 - 3. Hope does not disappoint because of love - Romans 5:5
- C. 1 Corin. 13:8-13
 - 1. Right now we only know in part. We haven't made it to perfection yet, but what we do have right now that is calling us ever closer to completion is Faith, Hope, and Agape.
 - a) Love. Not just covenant but intimate relationship.
 - (1) Rachel and I are committed to each other, not just because we vowed legal covenant with one another but more so because we have intimate relations and investments with each other.

II. Why do we need hope?

- A. Proverbs 13:12 - "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick, but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."
 - 1. Proverbs 18:14 - "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear?"
- B. Hebrews 6:18-19
 - 1. A refuge - to catch our breath and regain our hope
 - a) Acts 3:19 - times of refreshing = Recovery of breath, revival
 - 2. An anchor for security and stability for the soul (breath of life).
 - a) Sure = safe, reliable, trustworthy
 - b) Stedfast = firm, stedfast, enduring
 - 3. A Forerunner - We follow him into the presence of God (our ultimate future hope)
- C. Hope is always drawing our attention to the future. On what's ahead.
 - 1. Romans 8:24
 - 2. Hebrews 12:2 - the joy that was set before him.
 - 3. Genesis 13:14-18 "... lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art..."

- a) If we can't get our focus off of where we are right now, God will never be able to take us past it.
 - (1) If we don't get our hopes up and set on the future promises of God we will never see them in this life.
- b) Look FROM the place where you are
 - (1) "You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." C. S. Lewis
- c) Romans 4:18 - when there was no longer any reason to have any hope, he hoped anyways because his faith was strong.
 - (1) No such thing as a hopeless situation with God!
 - (2) Acts 27:14-25
- d) Isaiah 40:31 - "They that wait upon the Lord..." - Wait = Hope

III. Giving Hope

- A. 1 Peter 3:15
 - 1. You must have it in order to give it
- B. Romans 15:13 - We need to be abounding in hope so that we have plenty to share!
- C. This world is sick with hopelessness. Offer them the hope that they desperately need