

CHRISTIAN HOPE (1)
First Thessalonians
Banska Bystrica, 6th November 2016

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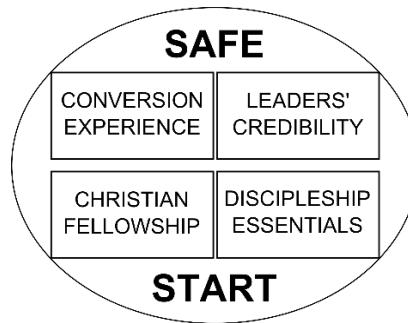
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0. INTRODUCTION

- reminder: method of exposition: theme “clusters”
- Love: “the trademark” of Christian religion (by this you will be known as my disciples...)

0.1. REVIEWING THE PREVIOUS LESSON

- love & labor



- impossible to distinguish sharply...
- hope belongs to the *essentials* of Christian discipleship

0.2. HOPE IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

- hope... (1) ...& fellowship, (2) ...& discipleship essentials, (3) ...& leaders, (4) ...& conversion
- the three fundamental elements of the Christian life: (1) faith, (2) love, (3) hope → (1) ἔργον, (2) κόπος, (3) ὑπομονή. (genitives of origin [AUBERLEN & RIGGENBACH])
- ὑπομονή – [PASSOW] (ὑπομένω) I. a remaining behind. — II. a holding out under, patience under

0.3. HOPE IN THE 1ST THESSALONIANS [TEXT]

- **1:3** remembering before our God and Father your (1) work of faith and (2) labor of love (**3**) and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1:9-10** ...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- **4:13 – 5:7** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose

again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede (*οὐ μὴ φθάσωμεν*) those who have fallen asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the archangel* and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (*ἀρπαγησόμεθα ἐν νεφέλαις εἰς ἀπάντησιν τοῦ κυρίου εἰς ἀέρα· καὶ οὕτως πάντοτε σὺν κυρίῳ ἐσόμεθα.*), and so we shall always be with the Lord.¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words. **5:1** Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

- **5:23-24** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

0.4. HOPE–THEMES IN 1THESSALONIANS

- A. The hope of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - a. Genitive – subjective (Jesus' personal hope → Heb 12)
 - b. Genitive – objective ("your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ")
 - c. Genitive – of authorship ()
- B. "Objective" future
 - a. The wrath to come (1:10)
 - b. Parousia (4:15–5:7)
 - c. Rejection of "eschatological timetables" (5:1-3)
- C. "Subjective" experience
 - a. Light (5:5-7)
 - b. Comfort, encouragement (4:13)
- D. Life of hope
 - a. waiting for Parousia (1:10)
 - b. spiritual watching (5:1-7)
 - c. endurance (1:3)

1. HOPE AS CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

Such is the saints' state in this bottom, that their very life here, and all the pompous entertainments of it, are their cross, because they detain them from their crown. We need nothing to make our life an evil day, more than our absence from our chief good, which cannot be recompensed by the world, nor enjoyed with it. Only this goodness there is in this evil, that it is short. Our life is but an 'evil day,' it will not last long. And sure it was mercy that God hath abridged so much of the term of man's life in these last days—days wherein so much of Christ and heaven are discovered, that it would have put the saints' patience hard to it, to have known so much of the upper world's glory, and then be kept so long from it, as the fathers in the first age were. O comfort one another, Christians, with this: Though your life be evil with troubles, yet it is short—a few steps, and we are out of the rain.¹

Kresťanova situácia to dole je taká, že sám tunajší život s jeho pompéznymi zábavami je jeho krížom, pretože ho zdržuje od jeho koruny. Nepotrebuje nič viac, aby sa nás život stal zlým dňom, viac ako to, že sme vzdalení od svojho najvyššieho dobra, ktoré nemôžeme nahradené svetom, ani sa svet z neho nedokáže tešiť. Len to je na tomto zle dobré, že je krátke. Nás život je len „zlý deň“, a nebude dľeho trvať...

- "Thy Kingdom Come"
- Aquinas: ...spes est certa expectatio futurae beatitudinis. (ST [39532] II^a-IIae q. 18 a. 4 s. c.)

¹ GURNALL, W. *The Christian in Complete Armour*.

- **2Tim 1:12** which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.
- **Rom 8:24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? → focus on (1) the future, (2) the unseen, (3) the promise of God
- hope is (1) cognitive, (2) emotional, (3) volitional²
- the danger of hopelessness...

Sin against hope takes two forms: (1) despair, as the anticipation of what negates us, and (2) presumption, as the unwarranted anticipation of fulfilment. In both cases we seek an illusory release from our pilgrim existence and expect the security of our lives other than from the hand of God. (*Cambridge Dictionary of Theology*)

- PRAYER: **Eph 1:18** ...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...

2. THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF CHRISTIAN HOPE

- τῆς ὑπομονῆς τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

GENITIVES

- types of genitive: possession; description; of the whole (“majority of people”) → 33 types of genitive case in Wallace’s Greek

(1) subjective genitive; genitive of possession (3 translations)

- ^{ROH} ...trpežlivost’ nádeje nášho Pána Ježíša Krista ^{YLT} ...the endurance of the hope, of our Lord Jesus Christ ^{NAB} ...endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ

→ Jesus’ hope: **Heb 12:2** ...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross

(2) objective genitive (12 translations)

- ^{NAU} ...steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{ESV} ...steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{SSV} ... vytrvalosť nádeje v nášho Pána Ježíša Krista. ^{KJV} ...patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{CSB} ...endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{NKJ} ...patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{ASV} ...patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{KJG} ...patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{NAS} ...steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ ^{NRS} ...steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{RSV} ...steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{NAS} ...steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ
- → **1Tim 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope... **Tit 2:13** ...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

(3) genitive of authorship (2 translations)

- ^{NIV} ...your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ^{NJB} ...how persevering the hope which you have from our Lord Jesus Christ
- → **1Pt 1:3** 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 from the dead... **2Thes 2:16** ...Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word... **Col 1:27** ...Christ in you, the hope of glory

3. TO REMEMBER

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² Baker Enc. of Psychology,