

Hopeless Or Hopeful?

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people..."

Ephesians 1:18 NIV

"...remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

Ephesians 2:12 NIV

I have spoken in these devotionals before of the need for hope—without which life is most miserable. People who sit in darkness and the shadow of eternal death are most to be pitied. Only those who have their hope firmly rooted in the Gospel have the greatest stability when life turns sour.

Believers need to join in with Paul's prayer for Christians as expressed in Ephesians 1:18. It is profoundly important that we grow in the knowledge of our eternal calling and to have a taste of it while still in this world.

The more we become acquainted with the life to come, the less we will fret about the loss of things in this life. If we lose our health, it blesses us to ponder how eternity will grant us strong vital bodies in which we will run, dance, and be totally free from limitations and

pain. When we weep over some loss in this world does it not encourage us that a day is coming in which the Lord will wipe away all tears from our eyes?

If we must live in a very modest home here, are we not excited to see and live in the homes prepared for us by the Saviour Himself? When we stand at the grave of a loved one who has preceded us to heaven, are we not blessed in the knowledge that the graves shall give up their dead in that great day?

Take a moment to ponder your estate before the Lord found you and consider how hopeless you were. You may have been enjoying the things of time and have been totally ignorant of the things of eternity. You were still dead in trespasses and sin notwithstanding. Then the moment came when you were quickened, raised from

among the spiritually dead and given eyes with which to see the truth as it is in Jesus.

Have you spent any time today alone with the One Who loved you and gave Himself for you? Have you turned to the Scriptures and looked for your Saviour in its sacred pages? Did you consider for a moment today the blessings you presently enjoy from His hand?

It is time now to turn away from the work of the world and spend a few quiet moments in the presence of Him Who chose you in eternity and sought you in time. He waits for you, so come to Him and come now.

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