



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord

HOPE

By Jeff Sweeten

There are few things more disappointing than false hope. The kind of hope that sets us up for a fail is a hope founded in fantasy; and it's hard to see a light at the end of the tunnel when you're not walking in the light.

In the Apostle John's first epistle, he explained how our hope can have substance.

"If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:6-7

Honestly, is there any greater disappointment than false hope? It is a puzzle to me that a person can be convinced that one can do whatever one pleases, believe anything one wants or say whatever one wishes to say and God is just going to be okay with that. In fact, God is quite clear about those who, even with good intentions, decide to do for God what He has not asked. Just imagine the disappointment in those who will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) trying to sell a Frank Sinatra faith of "I Did It My Way"; God's not buying!

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Matthew 7:21-23

Simply put, if you love God, you will keep His commandments (John 14:15; 15:14). This, of course, assumes that you will invest the time to know what His commandments are as you cannot be like Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1) if you don't know Christ. Further, you must be willing to change who you are if what you are saying and doing is not authorized by Christ; He has all authority (Matthew 28:18; by the way, this leaves no authority for anyone else, including Moses, Buddha, Mohammed, Martin Luther, Joseph Smith, et al.).

It is in this pursuit of changing ourselves to be like Jesus that we can have a real, substantive hope that does not disappoint. Therefore,

"...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2

If you don't know God's will, you don't have real hope. If you would be interested in studying the Bible to generate and maintain a genuine hope, I would be honored to study with you. I am in the office at 1300 E. Boynton from 8-12 most every Monday through Wednesday morning. You're welcome to visit. If you have any questions, email them to jeffdsweeten@gmail.com and I will kindly, patiently answer your Bible questions.

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you
have a question or comment
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:

www.parkheightscoc.com