

LIVING
IN
LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

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Class Booklet in Outline Format

Revised June, 2018

Living in Light of Eternity

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Published by Scriptural Study Groups

First Printing, May, 2009

Revised, January, 2016

Revised, June, 2018

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SESSION 1

INTRODUCTION

PART ONE: HOPE

I. WHAT IS HOPE?

- A. Hope is an attitude regarding *future* events which benefits us in the *present*

- B. Many Christian lives have become unfruitful due to a lack of awareness of the Hope

II. HOPE IS BASED ON PROMISES

- A. Hope is a vital word – its real meaning is virtually lost today

- B. John 14:1-3 – hope is intimately tied to faith, or believing

- C. Romans 10:17 – begins with God's Word

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D. Hebrews 11:7, 8, 29, 30 – examples of believing
(see also verses 13, 39)

E. Hebrews 11:1 – believing is the foundation for hope

F. II Corinthians 4:18

III. FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

A. I Corinthians 13:11-13 – for now, these three are necessary

B. I Thessalonians 1:3 – all true Christian service is motivated by love

1. I John 4:19

2. II Corinthians 5:14, 15

C. I Thessalonians 1:3 – the significance of hope

1. Hebrews 11: 8-10

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2. Romans 8: 23, 24

3. II Corinthians 4:13-17
 - a. Hope gives a point of comparison

 - b. This is not groundless “motivation,” it is truth

4. II Corinthians 4:18

5. Hebrews 11:13-16 *New International Version (NIV), 1984 Edition*

6. Hebrews 12:1

SESSION 2

PART TWO: AN OUTLINE OF FUTURE EVENTS

I. PURPOSES OF FORETELLING

A. Foretelling in the Old Testament

1. As a judgment or warning of possible judgment

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- a. I Samuel 13: 13, 14
 - b. Jeremiah 1:14-16; 4:1, 2
2. As a sign
 3. As a comfort
 - a. Isaiah 2:2-4
 - b. Isaiah 60:17-22
 - c. Isaiah 65:17-25
 - d. Ezekiel 37:11-14
 4. All Old Testament prophecy revealed the future in order to affect the present
 - a. New Testament foretelling is given for the same reason
 - b. For the Christian, they serve primarily as a comfort

II. EVENTS AND AGES REFERRED TO IN SCRIPTURE

A. Man's Day (present) – I Corinthians 4:3

B. The Day of Christ – our gathering together unto him (for the church)

1. I Corinthians 15:53, 54

2. I Thessalonians 4:16, 17 – in the air

3. Sometimes called "The Rapture" – compare II Thessalonians 2:1

C. The Tribulation (on earth) – Book of Revelation

D. The Day of the Lord – Christ's return TO the earth (with saints, angels)

1. Isaiah 13:6-13

2. Zephaniah 1:15-18

3. Other references in the Old Testament, Gospels, Revelation

E. Christ's thousand-year reign (on earth)

F. Final judgment

G. A new heaven and earth (God's Day) – II Peter 3:11-13

III. WHY DO THESE THINGS NEED TO OCCUR?

A. Adam's fall (Genesis 3)

B. The consequences of the fall

C. The redemptive work of Christ is finished; its effect upon mankind and upon creation is not yet finished

IV. WHY THE DELAY?

A. Romans 9:22, 23 *New English Translation (NET)*

B. God desires to give man every possible opportunity to repent

C. Revelation 9:20, 21; 16:9-11, 21

D. Christ's millennial kingdom

E. Philippians 2:9-11

PART THREE: THE HOPE AND THE CHRISTIAN

I. A PEOPLE "IN BETWEEN"

A. Tribulation

1. John 16:33 – pressure (*thlipsis*)
2. I Thessalonians 1:6; 3:3, 4

B. Suffering – to allow or to endure

1. Romans 8:17
2. I Corinthians 12:26

3. Philippians 1:29

SESSION 3

(CONTINUED, PART THREE: THE HOPE AND THE CHRISTIAN)

C. Tribulation – the Christian is not exempt

1. Matthew 7:24-27
2. “Positive thinking”
3. Romans 8:15-17

D. Additional pressure for Christians – I Peter 3:14-17

1. Due to our nature
 - a. John 15:18, 19
 - b. I John 3:13

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2. Due to our purpose (endeavoring to live for him)

a. II Timothy 3:12

b. To persecute is to pursue

c. II Timothy 3:10, 11

3. Voluntary redemptive suffering

a. Jesus Christ

b. Paul and Silas

c. Paul's thorn in the flesh

- Acts 10:38

- II Corinthians 12:7-10

E. Results of enduring

1. Trials of faith - I Peter 1:6, 7

a. James 1:12-15

b. I Corinthians 10:13

2. Enduring is active

3. Patience

a. James 1:2, 3

b. Romans 5:3-5

SESSION 4

(CONTINUED, PART THREE: THE HOPE AND THE CHRISTIAN)

II. THE PRACTICALITY OF HOPE – SOME OF THE BURDENS WHICH OUR HOPE ADDRESSES

A. The reality of death – John 3:16

1. The fear of death – Hebrews 2:14, 15; Philippians 1:20-25
2. Death is an enemy (I Corinthians 15:26)
3. The grave (*hades/sheol*)
 - a. Psalm 6:5; 146:3, 4
 - b. Ecclesiastes 9:4-6, 10
 - c. Psalm 16:10 – example of David

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B. The loss of loved ones – I Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. We sorrow, but not as others
2. Our hope gives real comfort

C. The limitations of the physical body

1. I Corinthians 15:39-44, 48-55
2. II Corinthians 5:1-4
 - a. Clothed upon
 - b. Luke 24:49
3. Philippians 3:20, 21 – a body like his

D. The unfaithfulness of others

1. Forbearing in love
 - a. Ephesians 4:2
 - b. II Thessalonians 3:14, 15
2. I Thessalonians 5:1-11

SESSION 5

(CONTINUED, PART THREE: THE HOPE AND THE CHRISTIAN)

E. Uncertainty regarding the coming wrath

1. We have been saved from wrath
 - a. I Thessalonians 5:9
 - b. Romans 5:9

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2. Doctrine can be forgotten
 - a. Philippians 3:1
 - b. I Thessalonians 1:1-3 – compare II Thessalonians 1:1-3
3. II Thessalonians 2:1-5 – two events must occur
 - a. A “departure”
 - b. The man of sin revealed
4. II Thessalonians 2:6-8
 - a. Withholdeth = *katecho* (to hold down or hold back)
 - b. Letteth, let = *katecho*

F. The evil that surrounds us

1. Man's Day

a. Psalm 12:8 *New International Version (NIV), 1984 Edition*

b. Job 21:7-15

c. Malachi 3:13-15

d. II Peter 3:3, 4

2. II Thessalonians 1:6, 7 – recompense (a repayment)

a. God's justice – Isaiah 3:9-11

b. God's judgment – by Jesus Christ

- Revelation 20:12-15

- II Timothy 4:1; Acts 17:31

- Hebrews 4:15

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- c. God's job and our job
 - Romans 12:14, 17- 21
 - Jude 3-9, 14-21
- d. A living judgment of the world
 - Example of Jesus Christ
 - John 3:19-21

SESSION 6

(CONTINUED, PART THREE: THE HOPE AND THE CHRISTIAN)

- 3. The final judgment includes judgment of Satan
 - a. Matthew 3:11, 12
 - b. Romans 16:20
 - c. Hebrews 2:14

G. The state of the earth

1. Revelation 21:1-5 – new heaven and earth
2. The authority of Christ – Philippians 2:9, 10
3. The reconciliation of heaven and earth
 - a. Ephesians 1:9, 10
 - b. Colossians 1:18-20
4. Jacob's ladder – Genesis 28:10-12
 - a. A related record?
 - b. John 1:47-51
5. The annihilation of Satan
 - a. His authority over the world
 - b. His presence upon the earth

6. The final event – I Corinthians 15:20-28 *New International Version (NIV), 1984 Edition*

III. CHRISTIAN SERVICE

A. Rewards

1. “Crowns”
 - a. II Timothy 4:7, 8
 - b. I Peter 5:2-4
2. II Corinthians 5:9, 10
 - a. The *Bema* – all will appear
 - b. “Every single one” – rewards are individual
 - c. *Poieo* – what is produced
 - d. *Prasso* – how it is produced

B. God's standard for rewards

1. Love

a. II Corinthians 5:14, 15

b. Galatians 5:6

2. Working on what GOD is building

a. I Corinthians 3:5-15

- The right foundation
- The right materials
- Under God's direction

b. John 15:4, 5 – we are not independent agents

IV. A HOLY LIFE – I JOHN 3:1-3

A. Holiness – why?

1. A glory to God
 - a. I Corinthians 6:19, 20
 - b. I Peter 1:13-16
2. An example to others
 - a. I Thessalonians 4:11, 12
 - b. I Peter 3:15

B. Holiness – how?

1. Hope nullifies the influence of the world
 - a. Romans 13:11-14
 - b. II Peter 3:11

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2. Deny, live, look – Titus 2:11-13

3. Hope sustains us

SESSION 7

PART FOUR: THE HEART OF OUR HOPE

I. LOVING HIS APPEARING

A. II Timothy 4:7, 8

B. I Peter 1:7, 8

II. CHRIST JESUS, OUR HOPE – I TIMOTHY 1:1

A. Philippians 3:7-9

B. An experiential knowledge

C. Our identification with Christ – John 15:4, 5

1. Acts 4:23-30; 5:41, 42
2. Acts 9:1-4
3. John 15:18-21

III. “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

PART FIVE: LIVING IN OUR HOPE

I. THE COURAGE TO BELIEVE

A. Joshua 1:2-9

B. Believing does not always mean immediate victory

1. Hebrews 11:32-38
2. II Corinthians 11:23-28

C. II Corinthians 4:17, 18

1. Looking, watching, waiting, expecting
2. Unseen, but not invisible

D. Looking at unseen things

1. II Corinthians 5:6, 7
2. II Corinthians 6:4-10 – two views of the Christian life
3. Romans 8:31-39 – more than conquerors
 - a. John 10:27-29
 - b. I Peter 1:3-5

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4. My choice

a. A world-focused life or an eternity-focused life?

b. Mere life or glorious life?

III. CONCLUSION – STEADFAST AND UNMOVABLE

I Corinthians 15:51-58



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy made our lives begin all over again, and who through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead gave us a living hope, and the certainty that one day we will enter into that immortal, undefiled and unfading life which he promised to you, and which he is keeping in heaven for you. Your faith has made the power of God the guardian of your lives, until you reach that salvation which will burst upon the world, when time comes to an end. You must rejoice in all this, even if at the moment you are involved in a situation in which you are bound to be distressed by all kinds of troubles. Even gold which has stood the test of the refiner's fire perishes in the end. But the purpose of all this is that you emerge with a tried and tested faith, which is more valuable than gold, for such a faith will find praise and glory and honour, when Jesus Christ dawns upon the world again. You have never seen him, yet you love him. You do not see him now, yet you believe in him, and your faith makes you rejoice with a joy which is beyond words to tell, and which is tinged with glory. And the secret of your joy is that, as the final result of your faith, you are on the way to receiving the salvation of your souls.

So then your minds must be stripped for action. You must live soberly. You must set all your hope on the grace which is coming to you when Jesus Christ will appear again. You must live like obedient children, and you must not allow your lives to be shaped by the influence of the passions which used to dominate you in the days of your ignorance. So far from that, you must show yourselves holy in all your conduct, as he who called you is holy, for it stands written: 'You must be holy, because I am holy.'

1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16
William Barclay Translation

