**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS: THE WEALTH AND WALK OF A BELIEVER**

*“Knowing God’s Calling”*

*Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his* ***calling…***

*“calling”-a career, profession or way of life to which a person is strongly attracted.*

* A **holy** calling (II Tim. 1:9)
* A **humble** calling (I Cor. 1:26-29)
* A **high** calling (Phil. 3:14)

*Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

*14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the* ***high calling*** *of God in Christ Jesus.*

George Bernard Shaw

*“This the true joy of life: the being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one;…instead of being a feverish, selfish little clot of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.”*

*Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the* ***hope*** *of his calling, …*

“hope” – *expectation; to anticipate with longing*

Biblical hope- *a desire of something good, with the certain expectation of receiving it.*

*Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*

*25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

Biblical hope is founded upon the faithfulness of a God who cannot lie and who is incapable of underperforming. (I Pet. 1:21)

*1 Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and* ***hope might be in God****.*

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an* ***expected end****.*

**Things we look forward to with “hope”….**

* **Righteousness** (Gal. 5:5)

*Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

* **Resurrection** of the dead (Acts 24:15)

*Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*

*1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

* **Redemption** of our bodies (Rm. 8:23-24)

*Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

*24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*

* **Return** of Christ (Rev. 22:20)

*Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

*Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

**The marks of “hope” in a believer…**

* Joyful **perseverance** (Rom. 5:1-5)

*Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

*2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

*3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

*4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

*5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

* Consistent **faithfulness** (Heb. 6:19)

*Hebrews 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*

* Confident **patience** (Rom. 8:25)

*Romans 8:25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*

*“…and what the riches of the glory of* ***his inheritance*** *in the saints.”*

Note: Not only do **I** have a calling and an inheritance in **Christ**, but Christ has an inheritance in **me**.

*Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the* ***hope of glory****:*