



The Word at Work

Hope For Tomorrow Will Affect Today

Reading the Word

Key Texts: Ephesians 1:15-20 + many more (see below)

Understanding the Word

1. The Importance of Hope

Hebrews 11:1, 6 Without hope there can be no faith and without faith it is impossible to please God.

Ephesians 1:15-20 Paul's prayer for the Ephesians indicates the importance of hope.

2. Hope's Effect on Today

a) Hope makes you **Positive**

Acts 27:13-44 Note Paul's attitude in the circumstances

Hebrews 6:19

b) Hope makes you **Pure**

1 John 2:28-3:9

2 Corinthians 7:1

c) Hope makes you **Passionate**

For example:

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| i.) | Romans 4:18 | Abraham |
| ii.) | Acts 23:6; 24:14-15; 26:6-7 | Paul |
| iii.) | Hebrews 11:32-38 | Heroes of faith |
| iv.) | Colossians 1:3-5a | The church at Colossae |

3. How Do We Get Hope?

Ultimately by revelation – see Ephesians 1:15-20 again

Also see scriptures in *To Do* no.1 below.

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. In what ways is hope 'a steadfast anchor of the soul' Hebrews 6:9?
2. Look at the verses leading up (v13 onwards) to the 'anchor' verse in Hebrews 6:19. These verses explain why we can be confident in our hope.

To Do:

1. Would you describe yourself as someone who is full of hope? Do you want to be? Read and think about the following scriptures: Romans 15:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; Romans 15:4; Colossians 1:23.
2. What things did Paul hope for? See Romans 8:22-25; Titus 1:2; 3:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Galatians 5:5; Romans 5:2; Colossians 1:27; Titus 2:13; Acts 23:6; 26:6-7. This is our inheritance too.
3. For those with internet access, something a little different for you – go to <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/w/e/h/wehavean.htm> and sing along to the midi file☺

Trevor Shotter – 9 September 2007