

“The Expectant Hope”

December 22, 2013

Introduction

Matthew 2:1-12 – the Magi's long journey

Luke 2:25-38 – Simeon & Anna's hope for the Messiah

Hope is desire with anticipation. defined by Dr. Stanley Toussaint

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; [Hbr 10:23 NASB]

Our hope is in the seed of the woman - the Messiah

15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." [Gen 3:15 NASB]

The Expectant Hope is...

1. based upon the prophetic **word**. (God's revelation of His plan)

2. a mysterious, supernatural, indescribable, unknown **surprise**.

9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." [1Cr 2:9 NASB]

3. balanced by **waiting** and **faith in action**. (Pharoah, Athaliah Herod)

4. a future focus and present perspective that motivates godly **conduct**. 1 John 3:3

28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. [1Jo 2:28-29 3:1-3 NASB]

5. now shifted to the **rapture** of the Church and the **2nd Coming**.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, [Tts 2:11-13 NASB]