Introduction: “Are you still among the living? No, I am still among the dying.” Death means different things to different people. To some it is annihilation, uncertainty, the ultimate end. To the Christian it means more, as we have hope. **1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.**

**I) What is The Nature of Hope?**

**A) Hope is the expectation of something desired. Hope = desire + expectation.**

1.Hope is always the expectation of something good. Fear is the dreaded expectation of something bad.

2. Hope is oriented toward the future.

**Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**

a. When we have hope we can “wait with joy”.

b. Does require us to have patience and discipline

**B) Hope is closely related to other Biblical ideas.**

1. Hope is the result of having our sins forgiven.

**Psalms 130:1 <<A Song of Ascents.>> Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD; 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. 3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope**.

2. Hope gives us confidence and trust in God.

**Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

3. Hope is connected to faith and love.

**1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

4. There can be no hope with out Christ; yet faith without hope is empty.

**Romans 4:18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."**

**C) Hope of the Christian is securely and objectively grounded**

1. Not just foolish optimism, not just a flip of the coin, or just a feeling.

2. Hope of the Christian is based on:

a. God’s character,

**Psalms 71:5 For You are my hope, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth… Psalms 78:7 That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments;**

b. God as the guarantor of our hope is faithful and can be confidently counted on,

**Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,**

c. Based on the resurrection of Christ,

**1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

d. Based on the scriptures, Romans 15.4

3. Hope will grow but should never be uncertain.

**II) What Are The Objects of Our Hope?**

**A) The appearing of Christ,**

**1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

**B) The presence of God and Christ,**

**1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

**C) Our bodily resurrection,**

**John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

**D) Rest from sorrow, pain, suffering, tribulation,**

**Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."**

**E) Salvation, the eternal inheritance,**

**1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

**III) What is The Value of Hope?**

**A) The power of hope is to protect,**

**1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.**

1. Is to purify,

**1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

2. Hope is the anchor and mainstay of the Christian,

**Hebrews 6:11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,**

**Hebrews 6:17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,**

3. Hope gives the Christian courage and boldness in life,

**Philippians 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.**

4.Hope gives us a reason to have a new attitude toward death,

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope… 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

**B) The power of hope is to give purpose and direction,**

**Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

1. Everyone needs long range goals to overcome short-term failures.

2. To give us enthusiasm and reason to go on in life,

**Philippians 1:12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,… 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

3. Without hope we are only half alive. With hope we can dream, think, and work with joy.

Conclusion: Death without hope brings despair and agony. Hope is a gift from God, centered on Christ, proclaimed in the Gospel. Do you have real hope? Is it based on Christ your Savior and not just on your feelings? The word of God instead of the works of men? God’s grace instead or man’s works?