

Lessons From I Thessalonians

Hope Glory Joy

(I Th 2:17-20)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “The Jews Sins.”
 - i. **I Th 2:14-16** “For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, 15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind 16 by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!”¹
 - ii. This of course was used to demonstrate the lessons we can learn from their sins.
 - b. Today we are going to look at “Hope Glory Joy.”
 - i. **I Th 2:17-20** “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, 18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. 19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? 20 For you are our glory and joy.”
3. In this letter to the Thessalonians Paul reflected upon his desire to see the brethren again because of how quickly and abruptly he had to leave.
 - a. He mentions how it create an eager desire for him to see them again.
 - i. **I Th 2:17**
 - b. He mentions how Satan had hindered them from fulfilling that desire.
 - i. **I Th 2:18**
 - c. Those two thoughts prompted Paul ask the question...
 - i. **I Th 2:19** “For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting/rejoicing...”
4. This is a question we should ask ourselves don’t you think?
 - a. What is our hope?
 - i. What do we long for with expectation?
 - b. What is our joy?
 - i. What gives us true happiness and satisfaction?
 - c. What is our crown of rejoicing?
 - i. What provides the highest degree of joy in our lives?

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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I. Paul's Hope Glory & Joy

- A. Remember Paul we eager to see them
 - 1. **I Th 2:17** “But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face
 - i. Notice the doubling of emphasis on wanting to see their new brethren.
- B. Remember Paul noted who kept him from seeing them
 - 1. **I Th 2:18** “because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.”
 - i. Paul had tried “again and again” but was hindered by Satan.
 - a. Most likely from Berea or Athens or both.
 - ii. Notice Paul attributes the persecution he was suffering at the hands of the unfaithful Jews as Satan’s handiwork.
 - a. **I Pt 5:8-9** “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”
- C. It is in the midst of these two truths that we learn Paul’s hope, glory, and joy
 - 1. Notice the Thessalonians were Paul’s hope.
 - i. **I Th 2:19** “For what is our hope...Is it not you?”
 - a. They were his hope because he hoped to see them at the coming of the Lord.
 - 2. Notice the Thessalonians were Paul’s crown of rejoicing.
 - i. **I Th 2:19** “For what is our crown of rejoicing...Is it not you?”
 - a. They were his crown of rejoicing because he anticipated being with them in the presence of Jesus the Lord.
 - 3. Notice the Thessalonians were Paul’s glory and joy.
 - i. **I Th 2:20** “...For you are our glory and joy.”
 - a. They were his glory and joy not just in the future but now in the present.
 - 1. The first two are future the last two are present.
- D. Thus...
 - 1. Paul’s hope, glory, and joy were his brethren in Christ, especially those he had taught and brought to the Lord.

II. Our Hope Glory & Joy

- A. For some Christians their hope, glory, and joy may be...
 - 1. Their possessions.
 - i. They hope in the acquisition of material things.
 - ii. Their glory (pride) is in what they have collected.
 - iii. Their joy is in the pleasure such things give them.
 - a. These things will perish however and are fleeting.
 - 1. **Mt 6:19-21** “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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2. Their jobs
 - i. Their hope is in the advancement of their careers.
 - ii. Their glory is in how far they have come.
 - iii. Their joy is in the money, power, or prestige they have obtained.
 - a. Jobs can be fleeting as well along with all they can bring.
 - b. Look no further than the past several years worth of recession.
 3. Their families
 - i. Their hope is in what their families may become.
 - ii. Their glory is what their families have become.
 - iii. Their joy is in the relationship they enjoy with their families.
 - a. Brother Copeland wrote, “While certainly more noble (and rewarding) than possessions or jobs, even our families are limited in the joys and glory they can bring; death ends our relationship as family, and if they are not Christians, what does that do for our hope?” (Sermon: What Is Our Hope, Glory, And Joy? by Copeland, Mark)
 1. **Mt 10:37** “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”
- B. Every Christians hope, glory, and joy should be...
1. Our brethren up with Christ at His coming.
 - i. Can there be a greater hope than to see each being taking up to heaven to be with the Lord at His coming?
 2. Our brethren up in heaven in the presence of the Lord.
 - i. Can there be any greater glory than seeing each other serving God for eternity all together?
 3. Our brethren’s happiness from fellowship with each other.
 - i. Can there be any greater joy than working alongside our brethren for the furtherance of the gospel call?

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren our hope, glory, and joy should be in the eternal not physical.
 - a. Let us strive for righteousness and eternity with our great and awesome God.
2. Question: Is your hope, glory, and joy based on the eternal rather than the physical?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**