

Hope Deferred, Longings Fulfilled

Hope deferred, Longings fulfilled

Proverbs 13 :12

- Sanctification involves the whole person(2Cor.7:1;1Thess.5 :23)
- It will not be completed until Jesus returns and we receive new resurrection bodies
- Matthew 5 :48 (be ye perfect..”) is about God’s standard - which isn't altered because of Grace
 1. All men are held accountable to His moral standard
 2. that standard is our “destination”

The process of change in us

3. we need grace and forgiveness on a daily basis to get there

- “we all make many mistakes” James 3 :2

- “if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves” 1 John 1:8

BUT

4. it is as family members(children)we are called into *RELATIONSHIP*- REMEMBERING that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us.

Empowered....but ?

- It is simply not taught that when God gives a command , he also gives the ability to obey it in every case
- But if we are not going to be perfect in this life –how should we then live?
- Despair? (Romans 6 “God’s power working in us”)
- No – increasing dependence and increasing sanctification

Co-operation

- We may not have an *equal* role to play with God - but we *do* co-operate in Sanctification
 - “God is at work in You (Phil 2:13) - HIS ROLE
 - the HS produces fruit in us and character
- Our role is twofold:
 - Passive – we depend on God to sanctify us
“Let go and let God??”
 - Active - Romans 8 :13 “if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live”

Discipline and Setting Boundaries

- Discipline brings hope – an indispensable tool to make life work
- Aim high – have great self government
 - what are we aiming for?
 - vision
 - teachability
- “A longing fulfilled is a tree of life” Prov13: 12
- PAY NOW, PLAY LATER (Heb 12 :11, 14)
- Discipline with structure which allows for celebration
 - advance decisions, Prov:7:8, proximity issues,

Why discipline and boundaries?

- The nature of “the fall” – it is comprehensive
 - our appetites skew our judgement
 - Our desires and passions determine what we consider rational action (Edmund in The lion and the witch and the wardrobe , seeks an excuse to satisfy his craving for the turkish delight and counters Lucy’s warning of danger about the White Witch when he hears Lucy heard this from Mr Tumnus the faun:
”You can’t always believe what Fauns say” , said Edmund)

Why discipline and boundaries (2)

- Materialism scoffs at everything beyond its pale, calling anything spiritual or non-empirical “nonsense” – but it leads us backwards
- (Lewis in ‘Prince Caspian’ where the trees and beasts stop talking and men are only concerned with their own advantage has one of his characters recognising this : “Wouldn’t it be dreadful if some day in our World , at home, men started going wild inside , like the animals here , and still looked like men , so that you ‘d never know which were which?”)

Why discipline and boundaries(3)

- The Achilles heel issue at the heart of us all is whether we will get what we desire?
 - *we will not be satisfied if we get what we desire, what our own appetites suggest*
 - we will only be satisfied , when we pursue the purposes that God has for us

Why discipline and boundaries(4)

- Materialism claims that alternate , non-empirical realities are “impossible”
- Logically speaking this is “more than we can know”
- It is ultimately an unsupportable claim(a “statement of faith” for Dawkins (ironic!)
- We are called to live in this material World and in the parallel unseen World , to not to be shaped by its values or understandings but transformed by the power that is at work in us