**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Living in the Light of the Blessed Hope |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Titus 2:11-15 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1996 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Titus 2:11-15
      1. The world wants to know if there is any hope.
         1. For some people, it seems as if there is no hope.
            1. It has been said that hopelessness is the saddest word in the human language.
         2. Some people have hope, but it is a false hope.
         3. Others have hope, but it is an uncertain hope.
      2. This passage of Scripture speaks of the Second Coming of Jesus.
         1. It calls the Second Coming the “*glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ*.”
         2. The Bible calls it a certain hope, a “blessed” hope.
   2. The word “hope” in the Bible does not mean “maybe.”
      1. It may be used that way in modern English, but that is not what it means in the Bible.
      2. The Bible word “hope” means “certainty,” but not just any certainty.
         1. It is a certainty based on the Word of God.
         2. It is a rock-ribbed assurance.
         3. It is certainty with anticipation.
            1. It means something that we know is going to happen.
            2. That certainty is based on the Word of God.
   3. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is a certainty and a blessed hope.
      1. Jesus is coming again.
   4. Hope is simply faith of the future tense.
      1. We know that we know that with our eyes, we will see Him.
         1. Since this is true, then how should we be living in these last days?
   5. Today’s message will mention some things that this “blessed hope” will do for us.
2. it is a purifying hope
   1. Hope teaches us.
      1. Titus 2:12
   2. 1 John 3:2-3
      1. We are the sons and daughters of God.
      2. This passage means that God is not finished with us yet.
         1. We cannot even begin to imagine what we are going to be; but we know that when the Lord Jesus appears, we shall be like Him.
            1. The resurrection body is going to be like Jesus’ resurrection body.
            2. Psalm 17:15
      3. Verse 3 states that everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure.
         1. If we knew that in five hours we would stand face to face with the Lord Jesus, then we would be cleaning up our lives.
            1. If we had any animosity, unforgiveness, or anything that was not right with God, then we would want to take care of it.
         2. If we have this hope in Him, then we are going to purify ourselves.
            1. We will get ourselves clean and keep ourselves clean.
            2. If we do not realize that Jesus Christ is coming soon, then we can get very lackadaisical.
            3. “Where there is no faith for the future, there is no work in the present.”

If people have a hope, if they can see that there is something in the future, then they are going to take care of the present.

* 1. We have a faith in the future; therefore, we are to be ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
     1. 1 John 2:28
        1. Some who are saved when Jesus comes are going to be ashamed.
           1. There are things that they could have done and should have done for the Lord Jesus that they did not do.
     2. 1 John 3:3
     3. When Jesus comes, we want to be excited to meet Him and not be ashamed to meet Him.
  2. If we believe that Jesus Christ is coming at any moment, then we are going to want to be living pure and holy lives.
     1. We are going to want to move one step higher in holiness.

1. it is an encouraging hope
   1. Even if it is getting dark, it is getting gloriously dark.
   2. Colossians 1:16-17
      1. There is absolutely nothing that is out of control.
         1. God has the devil on a leash.
            1. There is only so much that the devil can do.
      2. God is the power of creation.
         1. All things were made by Him.
            1. The world with its complexity and intricacies did not come about by random and blind chance.
            2. It takes a whole lot more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe the Word of God.
         2. It is His handiwork.
      3. God is the preserver of creation.
         1. By Him all things consist.
            1. He is the glue of the galaxies.
            2. He is the One who regulates the universe.
      4. God is the purpose of creation.
         1. What is the world coming to?
            1. It is coming to Jesus.
         2. In verse 16, the word “for” means “movement toward an object.”
            1. This world is moving to Jesus.
   3. Jesus will rule and reign.
      1. Habakkuk 2:14
      2. Jesus is the controller of this universe.
      3. He is the King upon His throne.
   4. The world is in a mess today, and people are talking about a new world order.
      1. All it is, really, is just a different disorder.
   5. There are three basic things that are wrong in the world today that will be made right when Jesus comes.
      1. The bride belongs with the bridegroom.
         1. The bride is the church.
         2. The bridegroom is the Lord Jesus.
         3. When Jesus comes, the bride is going to be swept up to meet the bridegroom.
            1. The Lord Jesus used this as an illustration of the time when the saved will meet the Lord.
         4. What’s wrong in the world today is that the bride is not yet with her groom.
         5. One day, there will be the marriage supper of the Lamb.
      2. The criminal belongs in prison.
         1. The criminal is Satan.
         2. The devil is not in Hell, but he will be in Hell.
         3. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.
            1. Revelation 20:10
         4. The reason why there are so many problems today is because the criminal is running loose.
      3. The King will be on His throne.
         1. The King is not yet on His throne on Earth.
            1. He is on the throne in Heaven.
         2. Matthew 6:10
            1. Jesus is going to rule on this Earth.
            2. Why would Jesus teach us to pray this prayer if He did not intend for this prayer to be answered?
         3. 1 Timothy 6:15
   6. After the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is not a negative note in the New Testament.
      1. We are not waiting to see who is going to win.
         1. Satan’s back was broken at Calvary.
         2. Jesus is coming to rule and to reign.
2. it is a unifying hope
   1. It brings us together.
   2. 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
      1. God wants us to increase (to move one step higher) in love one toward another.
      2. The Second Coming of Jesus is linked with holiness and love for all of the saints.
   3. If His coming is drawing nearer, then we ought to be drawing nearer to one another.
      1. There are some things that ought to divide people.
         1. It is better to be divided by truth than be united in error.
      2. But those who love the Lord Jesus Christ ought to have a fervent love one toward another.
   4. When we know that the Lord Jesus is coming, we are to be encouraging one another.
   5. Hebrews 10:25
      1. The closer we get to the Second Coming of Jesus, the closer we ought to be to one another and the more we ought to be in the house of God.
         1. Watching preaching on television is not an excuse or a substitute for church attendance.
            1. It is for those who are not yet going to church and those who cannot go to church.
            2. It is never a substitute for being in the house of God.
      2. If we love Jesus, then we are going to love what Jesus loves; and He loves the church.
         1. The church is not a building.
            1. It is the people gathered together.
      3. When we go to church, we are saying two things:
         1. God is important to us.
         2. The church (the people) is important to us.
            1. Our brothers and sisters are important to us.
      4. “Exhorting one another” in this passage of Scripture means “building up one another.”
   6. Parents need to see that their children are with the people of God.
      1. As the days get darker, things are going to get more and more vile.
         1. Our children are going to be pulled in the wrong direction.
      2. Get them in the house of God and under the Word of God.
   7. We need to be moving up one step higher in faithfulness.
      1. We need to be faithful to the church.
      2. We need to be faithful to our brothers and sisters in Christ.
         1. The Bible teaches it.

1. it is a challenging hope
   1. It challenges us to win souls.
   2. 1 Thessalonians 2:19
      1. The Apostle Paul had gone to a place that was filled with evil.
         1. He told the people about Jesus, and they were saved.
      2. Paul talked about the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus.
         1. He said that when Jesus comes, his hope, his joy and his crown would be those that he had led to Jesus.
   3. When Jesus comes and the church is caught up, will there be anyone in that crowd that you have led to Him?
      1. Will we go empty-handed?
   4. Bible prophecy is not simply meant to settle our curiosity.
      1. It is a motivating hope and a challenging hope to bring people to Jesus Christ.
   5. Some people sitting in churches today don’t really believe what they say they believe.
   6. People are busy with a lot of things, but there is nothing more important than people being saved.
      1. We get busy with our businesses, hobbies, and vacations.
         1. None of this can compare to someone being saved before the rapture.
      2. This is not to say that we can’t do any of our hobbies, businesses, or take our vacations.
         1. We can do any of these things if they help us to be a better soul winner and a better Christian.
            1. But if they keep us from doing that, then these things are wrong for us.
   7. We are in the business of bringing souls to Jesus Christ.
      1. If we believe that Jesus is coming, then we need to move up one step higher in soul winning.
      2. We don’t want to stand before the Lord and not have one soul that we’ve won to Jesus Christ.
      3. The Bible says that he who wins souls is wise.
         1. Proverbs 11:30
      4. All the soul-winning that we are ever going to do is going to be in this day and in this age.
         1. We are not going to do any soul-winning after the rapture.
         2. If we are going to do it, then we had better get busy doing it.
2. it is a stabilizing hope
   1. James 5:8
      1. We should not be blown about.
      2. We should establish our hearts.
   2. The trouble with many of us is that we are not stable.
      1. People go to church one Sunday but not the next Sunday.
      2. It takes as much of the blood of Jesus to save a Pastor as it does a lay person.
      3. Our friends do not pay us a compliment when they come to visit us on the day that we are supposed to be in worship.
         1. This simply means that they know that our worship is not very important to us.
      4. We need to be faithful.
   3. The coming of the Lord draws nigh.
      1. Be faithful, weary pilgrim.
      2. Our King is on His way.
3. it is a comforting hope
   1. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
   2. The Second Coming of Jesus is a great, comforting hope.
      1. Death is not God’s final plan.
      2. There is coming a resurrection.
         1. The saved will get a glorified body and will be swept up to meet the Lord in the air.
      3. The Lamb will dry our tears.
      4. We’ll have a grand homecoming when Jesus comes.
      5. It is not over yet.
4. CONCLUSION
   1. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus is a blessed hope.
      1. You are to be living in the light of this hope.
      2. You are to be moving up one step higher.
         1. Would you make a commitment to the Lord that, by His grace and for His glory, you will move up one step higher?
   2. Are you ready for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?
      1. If you are not saved, you can be saved today.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16