

A False Hope

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water? Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb. So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish: whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web."

-- Job 8:11-14

Hope is a wonderful thing to have. If we don't have hope then what do we have to take comfort in? There is expectation in hope that what is desired will come to pass. This may be a definition of the word according to the world's outlook of it. Many people hope in or on many things. It is of the utmost importance to hope and trust in that which is true. A false hope is that which is based on vanity and offers no real security.

Job spoke of the hypocrite's hope. What is there for a hypocrite to hope in? Such a person is presenting a false picture of himself and is living a lie. Could such a person think seriously that God would accept him and his lifestyle? The religious hypocrite pretends to love and to serve the Lord but in reality he does not do either. If he loved the Lord then he would indeed serve the Lord and the word of God would be precious

in his sight. He would observe and keep God's commandments to the best of his ability.

The hypocrite only pretends to love the Lord so he only acts as though he does when in the presence of others. In his heart he cares not for God or his fellow man. We can see such a man in the book of Luke in chapter seven. The Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner as his guest. When the woman washed his feet with tears and dried them with the hairs of her head, the Pharisee despised the woman and judged that Jesus was no prophet for allowing such a woman to touch him. While he thought this in his heart the Lord knew his thoughts and showed him that he not only knew the woman's sins, but his as well.

This Pharisee, and anyone with this opinion of himself, is trusting in a false hope. He would be basing his hope on his own notion of what is pleasing unto God. This Pharisee may not have been guilty of terrible crimes and sins, such as murder, but so-called small sins can take a person to hell as well. The Pharisee in the story was full of pride thinking that he was good and others were not as good as he was. His trust was not in God and his mercy, but in his own goodness. The woman was forgiven by Jesus there before them all, but the Pharisee was not told that he was. He didn't think that he needed any forgiveness.

To serve God is to take his word and to apply it to life, not

only on the Lord's Day, but every day that we live. The true believer is a believer each day and tries to live according to God's word, but a hypocrite will not. He usually makes a show of it on Sunday but cares not to really try to follow the way of God. While man may be fooled by the one who pretends to be a Christian, God is never fooled, for he knows them that are his. *"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity;"* **2 Timothy 2:19.**

While all people fail the Lord at times and commit sin through the weakness of the flesh, the believer will repent. **(1 Kings 8:46).** The hypocrite sins, but doesn't think about it and goes on his way thinking that he is alright, much like the Pharisees in the bible. They could hate, lie, hire people to lie, and have people killed and still think that they were pleasing to God. Truly they trusted in a false hope, thinking that their way was good, just because it was their way. The Lord was not acceptable to them, nor were they acceptable to him.

Those who want to go to heaven and be saved have to trust in the Lord and be saved and live by God's Word. No one can be saved by his works and no one can be saved without trusting in Jesus as Lord and the Sacrifice for our sins. Jesus is the true hope of the redeemed. Ahab Said, "I Hate Him"

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT
ABRAM HAS ACCEPTED THE GIFTS OF PHARAOH, AND NOW, PHARAOH HAS SENT HIS MESSENGER TO ABRAM, ASKING THAT SARAI, HIS BEAUTIFUL "SISTER", BE BROUGHT TO PHARAOH'S PALACE....

...HAVING ACCEPTED PHARAOH'S GIFTS, ABRAM CAN NOT REFUSE THIS ROYAL REQUEST....

ALL THAT I HAVE FEARED HAS COME TO PASS!

...AND SO, WITH A FORLORN HEART, ABRAM WATCHES HIS WIFE, KNOWN TO PHARAOH AS HIS "SISTER", LEAVE....

LET JOY AND SONG REIGN IN MY HOUSE, FOR THIS IS A HAPPY DAY!

BEHOLD, O PHARAOH-LIVE-FOR-EVER, THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FROM THE EAST HAS ARRIVED!

...WHILE THERE IS MUCH REJOICING IN PHARAOH'S ROYAL COURT....

JOHN LEHTI

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