Paul’s Hope

A mini lesson from Philippians...

A Hope of Heaven (Php 3:20)

Paul states the Christian view when he says, "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Php 3:20).

A Hope to Live By (Php 1:20)

Paul says, "According to my earnest expectation and hope... for me to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Php 1:20).

Paul not only hoped for heaven, but also that his earthly life would magnify Christ.

An Earnest, Eager Hope (Php 3:14)

Notice the adjective and adverb used to describe this attitude of hope in the life to come. Hope was "earnest" (Php 1:20 and something awaited "eagerly" (Php 3:20).

Paul says, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Php 3:14).

You too have an upward call from God. Are you earnestly pressing on toward it and eagerly waiting for it with joy?

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Influence of Hope

Lesson 5 in the Seven Influences series

By Ron Graham

The fifth influence that motivates us to obey God is hope.

A person without hope cannot be motivated to do good. If people’s lives are hopeless in their eyes, they become discouraged.

What we hope for is what keeps us going. In Jesus Christ we have the greatest of all possible hopes.

The Hope of Heaven Encourages Obedience to God

Jesus promises reward. "Great is your reward in heaven". This encourages us to obey God even in the face of adversity (Mt 5:12).

We do not earn this reward. It is given as a free gift (Rom 6:23). But that by no means lessens – rather it increases – hope's power to encourage our obedience to God.

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