
Date: September 6, 2020

Scripture: Various Passages

Series: Future Hope

Title: Responding to Your Questions

Q: In many sermons I hear people talk about "hope" and "the hope we have." But since Scripture is the inerrant Word of God, shouldn't we replace the word "hope" with "certainty"?

Romans 5:5 – "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Romans 8:24-25 – "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

Q: What happens if you have been cremated and your ashes have been scattered everywhere and you do not have a body in the ground?

Revelation 20:13 – The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Q: How are the two resurrections and two judgments different for believers and unbelievers? (Why will we even be judged?)

Acts 24:15 – And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

John 5:28-29 – "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

Q: Could it be that judgment day offers another chance for the unbeliever to accept Jesus?

Hebrews 9:27 – "It is appointed for people to die once and after this comes judgment."

Q: How will people be saved during the tribulation if the Holy Spirit is gone?

Revelation 7:14 – These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 – For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

Q: Why must Satan be released at the end of the millennium?

Revelation 20:3b – After that, he must be set free for a short time.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 – Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How has an answered question impacted your life to this day?
2. How is the way the world typically defines "hope" different from the biblical concept of that term? How can you remind yourself to put your hope in God whenever you're discouraged?
3. In what ways could you ensure your funeral bears witness to the reality of the future resurrection?
4. How can knowing there will be two coming resurrections and two judgments make a difference in your life now?
5. How does knowing that there are no more chances to turn to God once an unbeliever dies motivate you to live your life here in the present?
6. What role do you believe the Holy Spirit played in bringing you to faith? If you wouldn't currently identify with Christian faith, what have you learned about the Holy Spirit's role in bringing people to faith from the stories you just heard other people share?
7. It's going to be a happy day when Satan's reign comes to an end. Why?
8. In what ways do you long for the nations to be healed today? What would God have you do about this need right now?