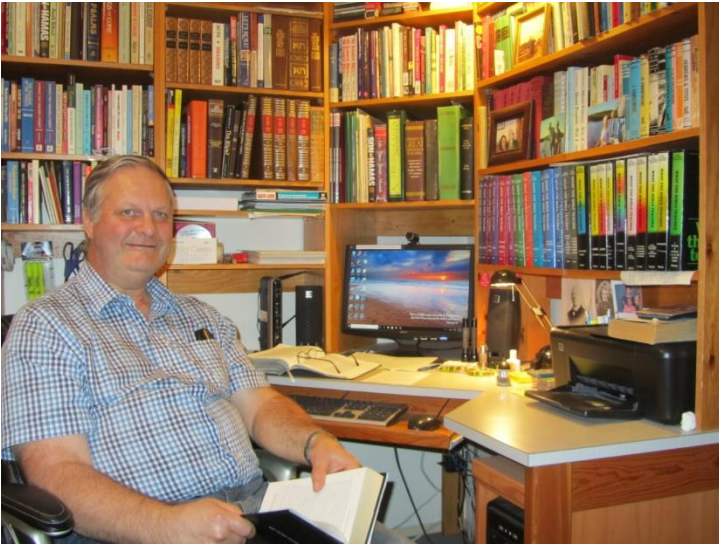


Correspondent's Corner

Hope for the Hopeless

June, 2019



“As Vice President, George Bush represented the U.S. at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev. Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed.

Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed: She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband's chest.

There in the citadel of secular, atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross” (Gary Thomas, in *Christianity Today*, October 3, 1994, p. 26.)

The Gentile believers in the city of Ephesus had a great problem before they trusted Christ as their Saviour. In Ephesians 2:12 they are described as “having no hope”. Their lives were limited to this life only, they had no hope for any future beyond this life. They had their idols which some believed gave them hope beyond this life but that belief was not based in any truth. Their false hope was based on stories or traditions of the particular idol. There were no witnesses to verify the truth of any of the claims of any idol. So these people before they trusted the Lord Jesus were in a state of having no hope. There is something foreboding like an approaching storm that is placed in one's heart by the thought of having no hope. There is something uncertain that is going to happen to someone who has no hope. Fear must be the inevitable result of being hopeless. In our world there are multitudes who live in a state of uncertainty lacking assurance regarding eternity hoping for the best but without any real expectation or sure hope beyond this life.

There was an assembly of believers in another city called Thessalonica. Some of the believers had passed away and those who were still living had the thought that the ones who passed away had missed the return of the Lord for His own. The living ones were described as sorrowing as those who had no hope. Paul wrote them and told them by the Word of the Lord that those who had passed away had not missed anything but were going to be raised when the Lord returns. So the believers who were still alive were comforted regarding those who

had passed away. I want draw attention to the phrase in 1st Thessalonians 4:13 where we read about sorrowing as they who have no hope. Hopelessness carries with it sorrow that cannot truly be comforted. Enough about hopelessness, the message of the Bible is a message of hope for the hopeless.

Titus 1:2 says “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”. This hope is a promise to us from the living God of the Bible. He promises eternal life to any who will put their trust in the Lord Jesus as the one who died for our sins and was raised from the dead to show that His death on the cross was accepted as a sacrifice for our sins. This is glorious hope for the hopeless. It is possible to have this hope by faith in the Lord Jesus as one’s own personal Saviour. Hebrews 6:19 says that the believer “has this hope as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast”.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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