

Hope in Troubled Times

Our election and the process involved in selecting our nation's leadership exposes the great division and apathy that exists in our culture. This election year was ruled more by fear and feelings than by faith and reality. Everything was wrapped in confusion and uncertainty. Where does all this come from? Ephesians 2:11 tells us:

"Remember that once you were without Christ ... strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

Most people today live without hope. Covenants of promise that provide stability in their lives have all been taken away from them. Even our Constitution which is a form of covenant has become alien to them. They are without hope. In Ephesians 4:17 Paul continues this thought, telling the believer who has placed their trust in the Lord to:

"No longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over"...

The desperate cry for hope in the heart of every person will cause them to give themselves or willingly subject themselves over to anything they think will fill the void. Unfortunately, for millions in this country, they will be disappointed and be brought into a deeper place of disillusionment in the future. The new and living way is only found in Christ! He is our Hope! Christ has made a way of peace and provision. No other substitute will satisfy. How does this hope come to us? Through a natural leader? No! This way is now available to every man but will only be experienced by the one who receives Jesus Christ. His body, which He willingly offered up for us all, His flesh became that veil which was torn, giving us access into the very Holiness of God. What are we to do with such a great sacrifice? Hebrews 10:22 says *"Let us draw near!"*

So, do not live in defeat, but draw near and obtain the strength and power you need not only to overcome in this world, but to demonstrate God's love and God's power to the hopeless, the blinded, the fearful.

This day we honor all of those who stand in harm's way on our behalf. We honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice that we might be free. And together, we stand in this living Hope which Christ has given.

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