

There Is One Hope

Introduction:

1. At the present time we are studying the 7 unique subjects listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. To know the truth on these subjects, as well as all Bible subjects, we must follow the instructions Jesus gave in John 8:31-32.
3. Previously we have studied the "*one body*" and the "*one Spirit*."
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on the "*one hope*" mentioned in vs.4.

Discussion:

- I. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. In some passages the Bible refers to "hope" in a general sense.
 1. In general, "hope" is the expectation of something good in the future.
 2. To illustrate this point, a farmer plows "*in hope*," expecting to reap an abundant harvest in the future (1 Corinthians 9:10).
 - B. The "*one hope of your calling*" in Ephesians 4:4 is more specific.
 1. Paul's request in Ephesians 1:18 indicates that we can know what this hope is.
 2. A number of passages identify the "*one hope*" as eternal life in heaven that Christ will give to His faithful followers when He returns.
 - a. Colossians 1:3-5
 - b. Titus 1:1-2; 2:13
- II. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES THOSE WHO HAVE THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. According to Ephesians 2:11-12, those who are outside of Christ have no hope [as illustrated by the jailer in Acts 16:25-27].
 - B. Thankfully, the Lord has made it possible for us to be born again so we can have the "*one hope*."
 1. See:
 - a. 1 Peter 1:3-4, 18-23
 - b. Titus 3:3-7.
 2. Notice the change that took place when the jailer was born again -- he gained the "*one hope*" that he did not have before (Acts 16:28-34).
- III. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. God's people are to rejoice "*in hope*" (Romans 12:12; Hebrews 3:6).
 - B. We are to prepare our minds so we can "*hope to the end*" (1 Peter 1:13).
 - C. The "*one hope*" will lead us to be pure (1 John 3:2-3).
- IV. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES CERTAIN BENEFITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. According to Hebrews 6:17-19, the "*one hope*" is "*an anchor of the soul*" that will prevent us from drifting away.
 - B. "*We are saved by hope*" in that it will help us to exercise patience while we wait for eternal life to become a reality (Romans 8:23-25).