

This morning I am going to discuss a subject that we do not often hear discussed. And yet we find a good deal about it in the Bible. This subject is the Greek word "elpis" which those of you who are in 2nd or 3rd year immediately, of course recognize, as being translated always in all except one case, in our Eng. Bible -- the KJV -- as hope. There is ~~one~~ case in which it is translated as faith, but in all the other cases in our Eng. Bible it is translated as hope. This word hope we all immediately recall represents one of the 3 Christian graces. We all familiar with 1 Cor. 13 - "now abideth faith, hope, and love." I don't think all of us are quite as familiar with the fact that these 3 important qualities are brought together in several other places in the NT. This in 1 Thess., the very first Epistle that Paul wrote, he says in the first ch. in vs. 3 -- "remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

And then over in the 5th ch. of the same Epistle (1 Thess.) he says, But let us who are of the day be sober putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for an helmet the hope of salvation. This word hope occurs a good many times in the NT but not as many as faith, but a very considerable number of times. You remember that when Paul was seized after these false accusations there in the Temple, that when he was allowed to speak he said, "for the hope of Israel I am today in bondage."

This word hope occurs a good many times. It is one of the 3 graces. It is indeed the helmet of the hope of salvation. And yet you know the Eng. lang. is like all other languages is constantly changing, and it has changed greatly. And the Gk. language changed in the course of time. Learning Classical Gk. you would be able to look --- to understand a great deal of the Gk. ^{spoken} spoken in Athens today but there is a great deal you wouldn't understand. And many of the words have changed their meaning as it happens in all ~~lang-~~ languages from time to time. Now as we use the word hope today, we say, Well, we are planning to have a certain picnic 6 weeks from today. I hope that is a good day. I hope the weather is good that day." We say, You have not studied as much for the exam as you wanted to but I hope you will do well in it." Hope today just means wish. I wish, I desire. How can this be one of the three Christian graces?