

I'm afraid that Samuel Johnson was not a great admirer of Scotch people. So we appreciate that that he said about them!

Now I was asked to speak today about our Heritage of Hope. We don't use that word hope such a great deal. We hear a great deal about faith. Salvation by faith. Tremendously important! It is the great watchword of our Protestant Reformation - salvation by faith. But Paul says, Now abideth faith, hope, and love, these three. We don't have a great deal said specifically about the word hope but we have considerable about the idea, and what is said about it is very important.

As evidence for that I will take for my text tonight ¶ Pet.1:13. I have often spoken about 1 Pet. 1. It is one of my favorite chapters. I'm very fond of the last two verses particularly which I like to use when I speak about the dependability of the Word of God. But I've never before spoken specifically on this 13th verse. Yet when you notice the words that Peter uses in this verse, you can see that he considers it very important. Peter says in 1 Pet. 1:13 = "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind; be sober and hope -- now he doesn't just say, have a little hope -- he says hope to the end. You notice how strong that is. Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Peter says, Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth; he's going to be revealed to the whole world when he comes with His holy angels to set up His glorious kingdom upon this earth, and he says Hope to the end for the grace that is coming then at the revelation of Christ Jesus.

Now I'm going to deal particularly tonight with this verse from Peter. But first on the importance of this hope, I want to turn to Paul for just a few minutes. We turn to the earliest epistle Paul wrote - 1 Thess. 1, and there we find a statement of what the Thessalonians have done when they became Christians and what and why they have done it. We find there in 1 Thess. 1:9-10, "For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you and how ye turned." These Thessalonians had turned. Now they had turned, Paul says for two reasons for or for to do two things. What are the two things for which they turned? He says, You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. There's one. Ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. And what is the second purpose of their turning? To wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivered us from the wrath to come. Our Heritage of Hope. When Paul began this church of the Thessalonians, this is what they did. This is when they became Christians, they turned to God from idols. They turned to God for two purposes: to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven.

What an important place then the second coming of Christ occupies in the lives of these Thessalonian Christians. Now that's the way Paul began his ministry. But did Paul continue to hope? Or as the years went by and Christ did not come, did Paul say, O well, I guess this was just a fanciful idea that Jesus was coming back and going to set up a kingdom on this earth. Years and years have gone by,