

MESSAGES IN TITUS
THE BELIEVER'S HOPE
Message V
"Those Without Hope"
Sept. 13th, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The reason that the unsaved man puts much stock in the outcome of politics, career and social mobility in life is that their hopes and dreams all ride on the outcome of them. This type of focus was not uncommon in Thessalonica during the apostle Paul's occasion for writing his letter to the Thessalonians. It was once said that:

"An archaeological excavation team, working in this very city of Thessalonica, has turned up an ancient, first-century graveyard. And there among the pagan tombstones they found one which was inscribed in Greek with these words: "No Hope."

Many unbelievers today, have no hope. Today, we'll explore the effect of the absence of hope among the Gentiles.

- I. THE GENTILES OPERATE WITHOUT LEGITIMATE HOPE IN THE WORLD
 - A. The Gentiles comprise those not included in the Church or the nation Israel.
 1. The word Gentiles is translated by two different words in the Old and New Testament.
 - a) The Hebrew word is goyim or sometimes were referred to in the Old Testament as "strangers"
 - (1) Israel under the Mosaic law, was to "love" (ahab -- "**have affection for; like, friend.**") them. Deut. 10:19
 - (2) Israel was not to "oppress" (lachats -- "**to distress, afflict, crush, force, hold fast, oppress.**") them. Ex. 23:9
 - (3) They under certain conditions could own Jews as volunteer themselves as slaves. Lev. 25:47
 - b) The Greek word is "ethnee" which is used in the New Testament to note those belonging to the nations.
 - c) Separation had developed between the Gentiles and the Jews by the time of the earthly ministry of Christ.
 - (1) The Jews considered it unlawful to keep company with Gentiles. Acts 10:28
 - (2) Jews considered it defilement to eat with those who were uncircumcised. Acts 11:3

(3) Jews wouldn't enter judgment hall of the Gentiles in order not to be defiled. John 18:28

(4)

2. The Gentiles comprise one of three races of people that God recognizes. 1st Co. 10:32

B. Before the advent of the Church there existed just Israel and the Gentiles.

C. The Gentiles were seen, following the Tower of Babel as being without hope in the world. Eph. 2:12

1. The Gentiles were without hope because they were apart from Christ. vs. 12
2. They were separated from the politics of Israel.
3. They were strangers from the covenants of promise.
4. They are "without" -- not having hope (pres. act. part. of echo).
5. They are "without" God in the world.

II. DEATH IS THE PRIMARY INDICATOR OF THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE GENTILES. 1st Thess. 4:13

A. The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Thessalonians to set in order the what happens to the believers who died before the rapture.

B. The truth of the status of those before and after the rapture provides believers with hope.

C. Ignorance about the status of loved ones at death contributes to the grief of the Gentiles. 1st Thess. 4:13

1. "Sorrow" is the Greek word *lupeo* (pres. pass. subj.) -- "**to grieve, to pain, to become sad, to be sorrowful, to be distressed.**" -- Reincker/Rogers lexicon cf. Matt. 17:23 (of the disciples)
2. "Others" -- *hoi loipoi* is used in Scripture to describe those who remain outside of the group considered. cf. Rom. 11:7 (of the rest of Israel blinded); 1st Tim. 5:20 (of the rest of the elders that witness the rebuke of a sinning elder) ; 1st Thess. 4:13 (of those in Thessalonica)

D. "No hope" is "may echontes" (pres. act. part.) -- to have. Jude 19

CONCLUSION