**Hope in God – Eph. 1:17 -18**

**Focal Truth: I hope in God because He has called me to salvation**

*I pray, that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling…*Eph. 1:18

What is the hope of His calling?

**Observations:**

1. **The hope of God’s call to salvation is a personal call - 1:18**

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling*

The hope of God’s call is personal & individual – ***Have you been called to salvation?***

1. **I heard the invitation call to repent & believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ & be saved
2. **I heard the invitation call** to confess Jesus Christ as Lord & be forgiven of my sins
3. **I heard the invitation call to believe** that Jesus Christ died so that my sins could be forgiven dead
4. **I was drawn by the Holy Spirit** to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ
5. **I was attracted to the truths** of gospel of Jesus Christ
6. **I desired to be saved from a sinful life** & experience forgiveness from God through Jesus Christ
7. **I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ & born again!**

 **There is no greater honor than to experience God’s call personally to salvation**

1. **The hope of God’s call to salvation is a gospel call – 1:18**

*so that you will know what is the hope of His calling*

1. I heard the gospel call to **come into the light** from my shame & hiddenness in sinfulness

1 Pet. 2:9 - you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that ***you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness in His marvelous light***

1. I heard the gospel call **to live in holiness** not any longer in the impurity of the world

1 Thess. 4:7 - ***for God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification***

***The old hymn says: what is our calling’s glorious hope, but inward holiness? For this to Jesus I look up, I calmly wait for this – Charles Wesley***

1. I heard the gospel call to **no longer conform to the worlds ways**

1 Pet. 1:15 – ***but like the Holy One who called you***, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior

1. I heard the gospel call **to live like Jesus in the world**

1 Pet. 2:21 – ***for you have been called for this purpose***, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you and example for you to follow in His steps…

***The word,” church” = called out ones!***

* *The church is the called out saved ones!*
* *The church is the called out of the world ones!*
* *The church is the called out ones who follow Jesus all the way to heaven*

Rom. 1:7 – to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints…

1. **The hope of God’s call to salvation is a promising call - 1:18**
2. Gospel promises are the hope of my calling to salvation in Jesus Christ

2 Thess. 2:14 – ***it was for this he called you through our gospel***

1. Gospel promises call me to wait for heaven as my home when I die

2 Thess. 2:14 – ***it was for this He called you through the gospel, that you may gain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ***

Heb. 3:1 – ***partakers of a heavenly calling***

1. Gospel promises are promises from Jesus Christ - Paul was promised by Jesus Christ that he would preach the gospel with results

Acts 26:18 - to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in me

**Things to Remember**

1. Hope comes in God’s call to anyone who comes to Christ Jesus
2. Assurance from God’s call is for whosoever will believe in Him to be saved!
3. God’s call promises eternal life to those who believe in Christ
4. The Holy Spirit calls, convicts & draws sinners to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ

**Daily Use**

1. Make sure you have heard & responded to the call to salvation – 2 Pet. 1:10 – ***therefore, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you…***
2. Rejoice in the hope of Him who called you to be saved!
3. Praise God for the gospel call & that you heard, believed & were saved!
4. Live worthy of God’s call to salvation

**May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that will know what is the hope of His calling…**