In this election year many people have set their hopes, *in regard to America’s future*, on the candidate of their choice; *which is every citizen’s right and privilege*. However, as with previous elections, election year promises do not always come to pass; because they are the “promises of men.” As believers, our “hope” is sustained in Christ. God’s *authoritative preeminence*, in *all things* is where our hope, ultimately lies! *(Isaiah 46:11b)*

Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it. Therefore, regardless of individual or national circumstances, “hope” can be sustained. **Sustained hope is “vital” to effective Christian living.** Someone once said: “Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.” Our hope is sustained in two ways; Repetition and Divine Confirmation.

The Repetition in the word. The word of God. *(v.12-15)* Repetition in the word creates an atmosphere, not only of hope, but discernment (safety) and legacy within the church. Peter makes no apology for teaching the same things over and over again; we need to be reminded because we all suffer from spiritual ADD or spiritual short term memory loss. Although the believers were firmly established in “these things,” what he had already written and what was still to come, *(v.11)*; they needed to be “stirred up,” aroused,” in regards to the “word of hope,” *(v.13)*. We are never too old to learn; nor are we ever beyond the *realm* of God’s eternal hope!

Repetitive instruction in the word is the essence of the pastor’s call and work! Peter, no doubt, still had the words of Christ “burning” in his heart; *(John 21)* “*Simon son of Jonah, do you love Me? Feed My sheep.*” And what should a pastor “feed” the flock, “the word of God!” To neglect this duty is to “hate,” rather than “love” the people of God; thus, depriving them not only of “hope,” but discernment as well. In Ezekiel’s day God rebuked the priests of Israel; *(Ezekiel 22:26a)* “Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean...” When pastors are “negligent” in teaching the word; that which is “holy” and “unholy” becomes “indistinguishable.” But where the word is diligently and repetitively “taught” and “obeyed” there’s clarity in regards to issues such as *same sex*
marriage. We are not “deceived” by the world’s emotive carnal logic; which says: “It can’t be wrong if it feels right!” But faith in the word of life is the path to everlasting life, not our “feelings.” Romans 1:20-27 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 reveals God’s clear mandate in regards to this issue – (ttt). The word “homosexual” – malakos: effeminate, catamite (homosexual lewdness), pervert. “Sodomite” – arsenokoites: comes from two Greek words; “arsen” – a male; “koites” – a bed, in the sexual sense of a man lying with another man, a homosexual.

“Pro-gay theologians” would have us believe that the great sin of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19) was not homosexuality, but the sin of “inhospitality.” Such teaching is “heretical” and blatantly “false!” Are we then being homophbic to call homosexuality, and same sex marriage “sin?” No we are God-phobic; We fear (respect) God more than the dictates of man! Truth is founded upon that which is “holy” not the “hype” or wisdom of men. (Gallup Poll 10-25% - actually 3.4%)

God, doesn’t expose our sin, whether homosexual or heterosexual to “condemn us,” but to “heal us!” (John 3:17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. God’s love, always speaks the truth; and refuses to leave us the way it finds us; (1 Cor. 6:11). God has nothing but compassion for sinners, and so should we, for “such were some of you!” For the believer who struggles with this sin, or any sin, God provides these promises; (1 Corinthians 10:13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (Psalm 37:24) Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the Lord upholds him with His hand.

(v.14, 15) Repetition not only provides hope, discernment, (safety), but also “legacy.” The Lord had spoken to Peter concerning his later years leading to his death, (John 21:18-19). Jesus did not promise Peter a life of material prosperity and physical ease; yet Peter followed Him, no doubt constantly reminding himself of God’s promises. Old age is unavoidable; we can lift it, stuff it, dye it, and take a pill for it, but we’ll all have to go through it. Yet, in Christ, every ache and pain is simply a reminder; we’re that much closer to home! (2 Corinthians 4:16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.
Notice: Peter, rather than waste his later years complaining, sought to leave a “legacy.” (v.15) is a great reminder to every believer, especially pastors and Christian Leaders; (ministry beyond yourself). The best legacy we can leave is a legacy founded upon the “eternal” word of God. (Grandma and Grandpa’s; leaders find a Timothy). A life given to the word of God becomes a pattern for future generations to follow.

In (v.16-21) Here Peter points out our hope is a present and future reality; present hope, “the power,” and the future hope, “the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” The Greek word for “fable” is mythos: (pronounced; mu-thos); “myth” (Greek mythology); a person or thing having only an imaginary or unverifiable existence. In these verses Peter presents “verifiable” which serve as Divine Confirmation.

1. Eyewitnesses. (v.16b) Eyewitnesses to the “resurrection.” Martyrdom of the apostles; Foxes Book of Martyr’s. (Acts 4:20) “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” Our hope, in Christ, is sustained because He lives.


3. Fulfillment of Prophecy. (v.19) Prophecy is like runway lights at night, so planes can land safely; prophetically speaking; the “lights” of prophecy lead straight to Christ; (Rev.22:16 Jesus calls Himself the “Morning Star”). Our hope, in Christ, is sustained through the fulfillment of prophecy.

4. Witness of the Spirit. (v.20, 21) No “private” interpretation or origin. To bend it to our lifestyle or interpretation is to call God a “liar” to His face. (Deuteronomy 7:10) “…and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.” “Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit,” is the rejection of Christ; who has been revealed in the word, by the Spirit! Our hope, in Christ, is sustained by the Spirit of God!

CONCLUSION: It has been said: Man can live about forty days without food, three days without water, eight minutes without air; but no man can live without “hope.” In Christ we have hope; power to “live” today and faith for tomorrow! (ttt) Psalm 33:10-22.