

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Awaken Hope

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

June 20, 2021

Scriptures:

Isaiah 51:9-52:12

Theme: Let hope grow because the Lord affirms his deliverance.

Introduction: Hope is a delicate thing. Unrealistic expectations often result in heart-sickness (Prov 13:12). But hopeless cynicism is not a proper disposition either. True hope is one of the abiding virtues of Christianity (1 Cor 13:13). And Christians, of all people, ought to have hope in this world. In fact, true hope is so powerful that we ought to ask ourselves: if we are hoping in God rightly, what kind of people will we be?

This passage examines biblical hope through 3 points:

1. Hope and doubt (51:9-16)

This passage is structured by 3 occurrences of the theme, "Awake, awake." In this first section, the Lord's people are calling him to awake and save them.

They are suffering, and they doubt the Lord and his goodness. They know he saved in the past but they doubt if he with them in the present.

The Lord answers as their comforter. Though they feared man and had forgotten him, he will deliver them. Their oppressors will not triumph.

2. Affirmation of hope (51:17-23)

Now the Lord calls his people to "awake." He likens them to a drunk mother with drunk sons. They have drunk of the Lord's wrath for their sins and they are stumbling about.

Yet though they deserve their troubles, still the Lord is merciful. He promises to take the cup of his wrath and to give it instead to their oppressors.

We are reminded of God's judgment—he alone can achieve full and final justice.

Our hope must be in him.

We are also reminded that Jesus drank the cup of God's judgment for our sins (Mark 14:36). He has secured our hope and our salvation.

3. A hopeful heart (52:1-12)

The Lord again calls his people to awake—this time to the redemption and restoration that they will receive from him.

Like a besieged city looking for a messenger of good news, so are God's people called to look to the good news of Jesus so that we walk hopefully in this world.

Questions:

1. From what do you need the Lord to deliver you? Are you looking to him?
2. With what doubts do you struggle?
3. How can you remind yourself of his deliverance? How can you turn to him daily?