

Where is Your Hope?

(Psalms 42:5) Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

With this scripture in mind, there must be a reason why we become discouraged. The psalmist was asking the question, "Why art thou cast down, soul?" It certainly seems he is implying that hope must be set in something outside of God.

There are many who put their hope in humanity in its various forms, such as governmental leaders, educational institutions, medical industries, supposing through these various enterprises some kind of miraculous intervention will come to them in time of great peril. Although, these have helped in some manner, they also have not completely delivered from despair.

Now there are others whose hope is in the financial institutions of our day, banks, investment companies, the stock market and etc.... If this is the case, then when the interests are up, also is hope. But on the other hand, could it be when the interests are down, so goes our hope? Again, history has proven a failure in this trust in economic uncertainties.

A little closer to the religious home, sincere individuals put much trust and hope in the ecclesiastical realm. Denominations, church leaders, pastors and all else that could be listed here, seem stable enough for hope's endurance. But again, we must consult history, and so it tells its story of how these also have failed in bringing about lasting hope. Of course, these are all of finite and humanly weak means. Man can fail in his governmental, finite and humanly weak means. Man can fail in his governmental, financial, or religious capabilities.

That may hurt the feelings, but nevertheless God; through it all is trying his level best to encourage us to place our hope solely in him. "Hope thou in God," the psalmist is proclaiming. The One who is from everlasting to everlasting! God in his omnipotence can never fail, thus proving that hope in him is an anchor to the soul.