Daily Devotion #160

A Blessed Hope

**Titus 2:11-14 (NASB)** *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus*.”

Just yesterday my brother-in-law had a very bad accident. He fell from a twenty-five-foot tower causing a great deal of damage to his body. Currently he is in the hospital being monitored very closely. Thankfully much of what could have been very bad has been protected by the grace of God.

As we were at the hospital with my sister-in-law and nephew, praying and hoping for good news, the nurse came in and told us that only one visitor could see him in a day’s time. So, his wife, my sister-in-law, said good-bye to each of us so she could be with her husband. As she got to me, she hugged me and whispered these words, “We have a blessed hope”. At that moment, and even as I write this, those words bring tears to my eyes. Not because of the situation as much as how the situation is being overshadowed by the love and compassion and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have been thinking about her words since she said that to me and I must say, they still overwhelm me. I cannot imagine life without the hope of knowing with full assurance that our souls are safe in Christ.

Everyone who lives this life knows that there are many troubles. We all experience them. Some larger and more difficult than others. But what hope, what encouragement, what joy there is in knowing that no matter what happens to us, we have the hope of knowing that our God has made a way for us to be with our Savior forever when we leave this world.

As the Apostle Paul was giving some final instructions to Titus so that he could pass them on to those to whom he was ministering, Paul followed them with the words from our verses for today. In his context, the church was learning to continue to push forward in life even in the midst of challenges. Some of those challenges were just the normal operations of the times. Some were more challenging to follow and fulfill.

But in all the instructions, Paul wanted to make sure that the believers weren’t simply going through the motions of life with drudgery and dread, but that they remembered what God had done for them. God had provided the greatest gift of all, His Son. And God’s gift became the greatest of motivators for all who know Him.

That is the way God wants us to look at our lives. God didn’t give us life so that we would dread it or find no hope in it, but to remember that in the midst of all of our challenges, even as painful as they may be, we are to keep our eye on His Gift to us. His Son!

The days ahead for our brother-in-law are going to be challenging in a lot of ways. But what hope there is in knowing that no matter the outcome, there is always hope. The hope of knowing that this life is not all there is. The hope of knowing that all the pain and suffering of this world will never compare to what the Lord has waiting for us. The hope of knowing that even though our bodies get older and the world seems to be getting crazier, we will forever live in heaven with the One who came to rescue us.

I don’t know what difficulty you are experiencing right now. But God does. And He wants you to remember what He has done for you and what He has prepared for you. So as you live your days, good and bad, if you listen carefully, you will hear the Holy Spirit say to you the words of Paul to Titus, “Keep looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.”.