

Attributes of the Christian Life

Mercy and Hope

Galatians 5:22-23; Selected Scriptures

1. Mercy

A. Definition: God's mercy is his power extended for the alleviation of the consequences of sin; it is the application of grace.

I. God's Grace to Man in Salvation (Eph 2:8-9; cf. Rom 4:4-5; Gal. 2:16)

II. God's Grace to Man in Gifts (2 Cor. 8:1)

III. Men Being Gracious One to Another (Eph. 4:9; Col. 4:6)

B. God And Mercy

I. He Abounds with Mercy (Eph. 2:4)

II. Salvation is Given by God's Mercy (Ti. 3:5; cf. Lk. 1:77-78; 1 Pet. 1:3)

III. Godly Wisdom is Characterized by Mercy (Ja. 3:17)

C. Man and Mercy

I. God Desires Men to be Merciful (Matt. 9:13; 12:7; 23:23; Cf. Hos. 6:6)

II. Mercy is Displayed in Forgiveness (Matt. 18:21ff)

III. Mercy is Displayed in Action (Luke 10:37)

2. Hope

A. Definition: confident assurance of the future fulfillment of God's promise

B. God is Our Hope

I. He is the Source of our Hope (Rom. 15:13)

II. Hope Abounds by the Spirit (Rom 15:13)

III. Jesus Christ is our Hope (1 Tim. 1:1)

C. Hope Expressed by Men

I. As Part of Saving Faith (Rom 4:18; cf. Ti. 1:2)

II. In the Future Resurrection (Acts 25:14-15; 1 Thess. 4:13)

III. In the Completion of God's Plans (Gal. 5:5; Col 1:5; Ti. 2:13)

IV. At Work in Our Sanctification (Rom 5:2-5; 15:4; Col 1:23; 1 Thess. 5:8)