

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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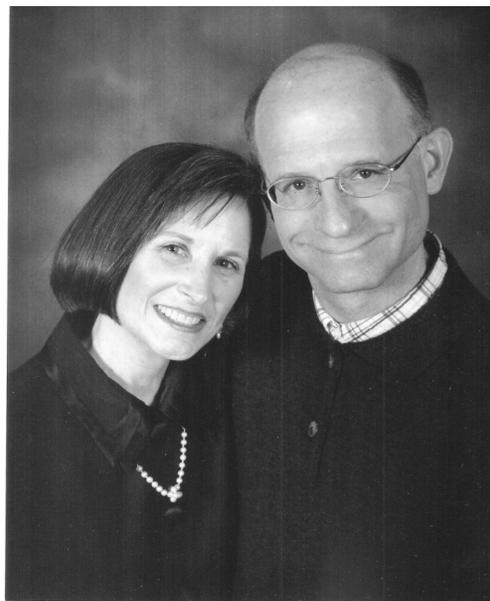
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**May God richly
bless you!**

Tom & Debbie

Our Blessed Hope

Paul writes, often, of our 'hope,' our 'blessed hope.' What is our hope? Paul's writings are filled with 'hope' and he has something very specific in mind... something he was taught, in Heaven, by the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. Wait... you didn't know that Paul had actually been to Heaven? Unlike most of the writers of the New Testament, who had lived and walked with Jesus during His three and a half years of ministry on Earth and then witnessed His crucifixion and resurrection, Paul had, during that time, been a student, learning to be a Pharisee: 'I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, ⁵ as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.' Acts 22:3 Paul had been brought up far from Jerusalem, in Tarsus, in what is now modern Turkey. His early 'ministry' had been to hunt down Christians for imprisonment. He later tells us, referring to himself, that, after his miraculous meeting with Jesus Christ while on his way to Damascus: 'I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man, whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not



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*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.' 2Cor 12:2

Paul received his understanding of the Gospel from Jesus, Himself. Paul's teachings should be forceful in our thinking... he was actually in Heaven hearing and seeing things that no other person has ever seen or heard, much of which he was not allowed to share but Paul is the one who refers to our 'blessed hope.'

He called it a mystery: 'Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.' 1Cor 15:51 To Titus, he wrote: 'teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus

Christ,' Titus 2:12

Many more verses strongly suggest the Rapture: Rev 3:10, Phpp 3:20, 1Thes 4:16 and especially John 14:3: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know." Where did He go? Heaven. The way He went? He was taken up, bodily. Obviously, Paul, at least some of the time, when he refers to 'our hope,' he means the Rapture!

If our hope is in the imminent (about to occur at any moment) return, in the clouds, of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive us up to Himself, what is the reason or purpose of our hope?

Everyone on Earth, at least those of us who have access to information of happenings around the World, understand and recognize that the World is heading toward globalism, an eventual one-World government of the international 'elite' governing all of the rest of us.

One does not need to be a Christian or a student of God's Word to recognize what we are being told, and shown, daily. International 'movers and shakers' are bent on establishing 'the Great Reset.' Their goal is international Socialism/Communism, with themselves at the top, as they force a Worldwide redistribution of the middle class's wealth to create a huge underclass of 'serfs.' They plan to use the threat of 'climate change' to bring about our capitulation and they have certainly used the Covid situation to force a Worldwide submission to those in government. It is just like God's Word warned us in Isaiah 5:20: 'Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!'

We see the World's insanity around us every day. Teenage boys, who decide that they are really girls, are allowed, in sports, to crush teenage girls in competition. Girls or parents who complain are quickly shut down and 'cancelled.' A New Zealand man who was a mediocre weight lifter was allowed to compete against women, in the Olympics, by deciding he is now a woman. Actually, he is so mediocre that even with his masculine physical advantages he was still unable to even earn a medal. But, to further illustrate the World's insanity... he has been awarded 'Sportswoman of the Year.' That's right! And feminists around the World would rather see genuine women's sports destroyed in order to further the World's mission of destroying Christianity. That is the ultimate goal of the 'sexual revolution,' abortion on demand, the homosexual agenda with homosexual marriage along with the transsexual agenda and the soon coming legalization of all illicit drugs.

Jesus warned that the time of His coming would resemble the times before the Flood and of Sodom and Gomorrah. None of this is 'conspiracy theorism,' these are the things we see on the news nearly every day and yet, so many wish to pretend all is well.

These things are happening and the World is being made ready to receive one man who will rise to govern the World. The Bible calls him the Antichrist. The World

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he governs will experience seven years of terrible tribulation as God finally pours out His Wrath on the World which has rejected Him.

This is happening now but it is not meant to be a cause of fear or concern for we who are born again, children of God, the Bride and Body of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, He said, 'Let not your heart be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you and I will come again to snatch you up, out of this World, to always have you to Myself.'

He said, 'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' John 14:27

He is our hope, His return for us is our hope and He is the One for Whom we patiently wait: 'But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.' Isa 40:31

I believe that every time Paul refers to 'hope,' he means the Rapture when our hope will finally be fulfilled.

We don't hope in our Salvation; that is an accomplished fact. We have been given Eternal Life and it can never be taken away.

Some hope in Jesus' return while others are led astray, taught to hope in prosperity and good health but neither of those

were ever promised to God's children. In fact, Jesus said, 'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.' John 16:33 Many Christians clearly see these things coming on the horizon; some are filled with fear while many others are filled with hope while still others simply don't think about it at all.

Our hope in the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the clouds, to receive us up to Himself, is what allows us to confidently live in the present wicked World. We are *in* the world but we are not to be *of* the world.

Is our hope only meant to assuage our fear or is there an even more pressing purpose? Our understanding is meant to *propel us into evangelism*, to recognize that the horrible seven years of the Tribulation are about to begin and then, for so many millions and even billions, their final destiny will be *eternity in the Lake of Fire*.

Our commission, our command is: 'And He said to them, (to us) Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15

We have, and understand, the only *hope* for any person alive today.

A final thought: Eternity is ours; believing won't hasten His return and disbelieving won't delay His return even for one minute!

Our hope is not meant to pull us out of the World... we are *in* the World but not *of* it... we are commanded to 'occupy' until He comes... we are to be about the business of living, witnessing, working and playing... hopeful every day but never drawing back from our place, work and ministry in this World till He comes. So many Christians are defeated, without hope or strength, without clear direction or motivation; all they see is a World gone mad, seemingly controlled by those who hate us. But we know God will eventually destroy this present, wicked World and create it all new and perfect. If what we see now is beautiful, just try to imagine what His new, perfect, uncursed, unmarred by sin, eternal World will be. And we will, in our new, glorified, eternal bodies, be equipped to experience and enjoy all that God has planned to do. We will have no limitations at all. However great and huge we can imagine... what awaits us is far, far beyond even that. We will live in perfect harmony, peace and joy with God and with all His Creation.

That is what we look to as we hope in His soon appearing to receive us up unto Himself. He is coming soon.

Maranatha! The Lord Cometh!

'And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.' Rev 22:12

Even so Lord Jesus, come quickly!

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