

Living In The Hope Of Glory

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Believers living in this world of sin and unbelief are agents of the Kingdom of God residing in foreign territory for a season, but their heart, their affections are in heaven. They hope to leave this life with its constant sin and mortal fragility and possess their prepared inheritance in glory; they hope, not in the sense of ‘perhaps’ or ‘possibly’ but with the full assurance of faith (Hebrews 10:22). That is their goal, not material prosperity in the baubles of this world, for they feel that ‘here they have no continuing city but they seek one to come’ (Hebrews 13:14). Many years ago I heard Henry Mahan say that this demeanour of life will ‘leak out’ of God’s people as they interact with the world around them. Commenting on 1 Peter 3:15 he wrote:

Be ready to give an answer – When a person asks you to tell him why you believe your sins are pardoned, why you believe that your name is written in heaven, and why you believe that you are not under condemnation but hope to reign eternally with Christ, be ready always to give him a scriptural answer. It is because Christ Jesus is your righteousness before the law, Christ Jesus is your justifier by His blood, and Christ Jesus is your mediator before God’s throne! Give that answer in a humble fashion, for we are what we are by the grace of God. Give that answer with ‘the fear of the Lord’, being careful that He gets all the glory for your blessings. Give that answer courteously and respectfully; it may be that the person who asks is a true seeker.

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