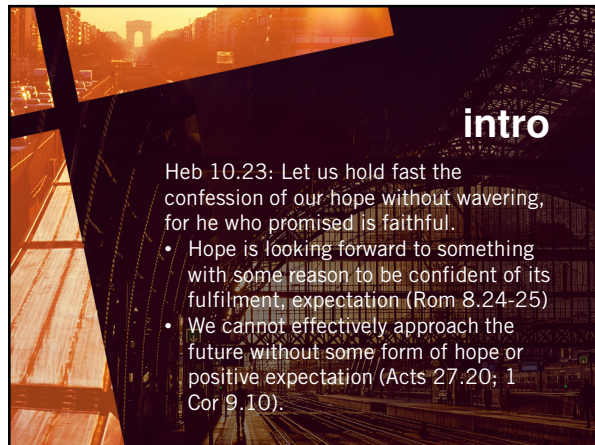


God's Building: Holding on to Hope

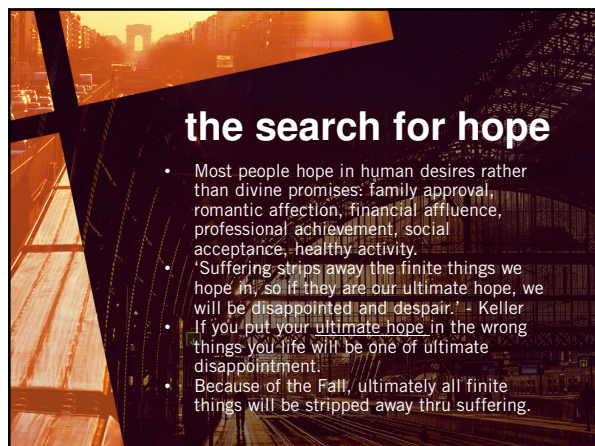
Hennie Swart



intro

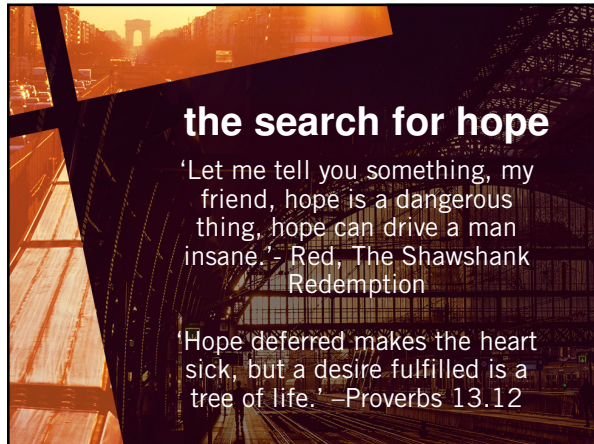
Heb 10.23: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- Hope is looking forward to something with some reason to be confident of its fulfilment, expectation (Rom 8.24-25)
- We cannot effectively approach the future without some form of hope or positive expectation (Acts 27.20; 1 Cor 9.10).



the search for hope

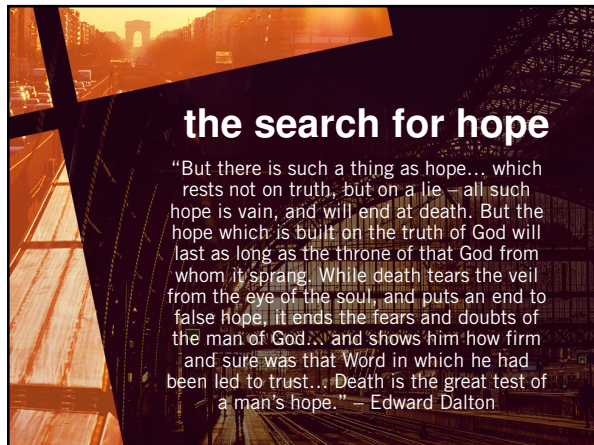
- Most people hope in human desires rather than divine promises: family approval, romantic affection, financial affluence, professional achievement, social acceptance, healthy activity.
- 'Suffering strips away the finite things we hope in, so if they are our ultimate hope, we will be disappointed and despair.' - Keller
- If you put your ultimate hope in the wrong things you life will be one of ultimate disappointment.
- Because of the Fall, ultimately all finite things will be stripped away thru suffering.



the search for hope

‘Let me tell you something, my friend, hope is a dangerous thing, hope can drive a man insane.’ - Red, The Shawshank Redemption

‘Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.’ - Proverbs 13.12



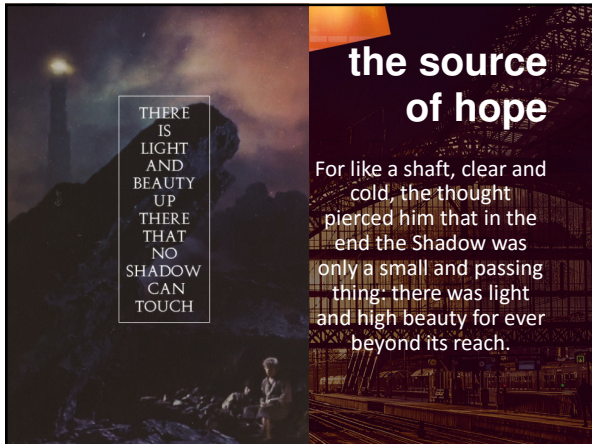
the search for hope

“But there is such a thing as hope... which rests not on truth, but on a lie – all such hope is vain, and will end at death. But the hope which is built on the truth of God will last as long as the throne of that God from whom it sprang. While death tears the veil from the eye of the soul, and puts an end to false hope, it ends the fears and doubts of the man of God... and shows him how firm and sure was that Word in which he had been led to trust... Death is the great test of a man's hope.” – Edward Dalton



the source of hope

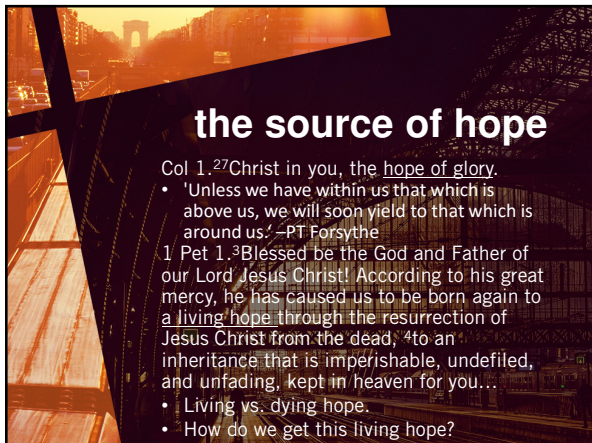
- Where can we find ultimate hope when the world is corrupt and corruptible – it is not getting better (contra pre-WW expectations).
- We are corrupt and corruptible – the problem is not just ‘out there’.
- E.g. Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien.



the source of hope

THERE
IS
LIGHT
AND
BEAUTY
UP
THERE
THAT
NO
SHADOW
CAN
TOUCH

For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty for ever beyond its reach.



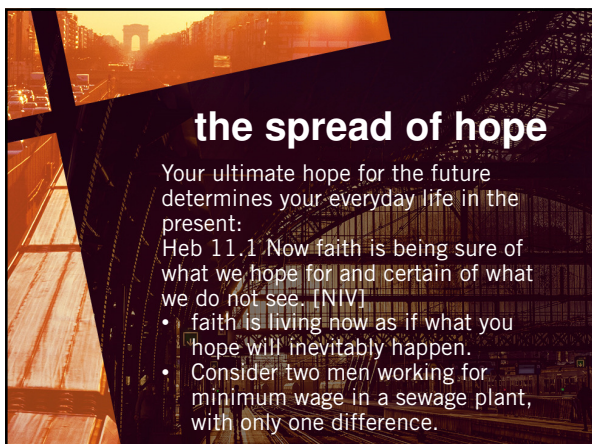
the source of hope

Col 1.²⁷ Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- 'Unless we have within us that which is above us, we will soon yield to that which is around us.' –PT Forsythe

1 Pet 1.³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

- Living vs. dying hope.
- How do we get this living hope?

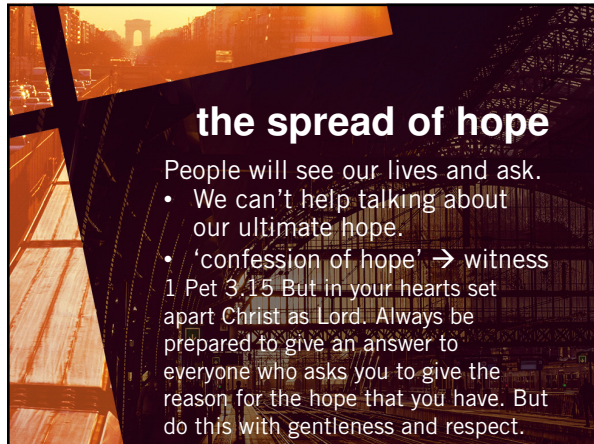


the spread of hope

Your ultimate hope for the future determines your everyday life in the present:

Heb 11.1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. [NIV]

- faith is living now as if what you hope will inevitably happen.
- Consider two men working for minimum wage in a sewage plant, with only one difference.

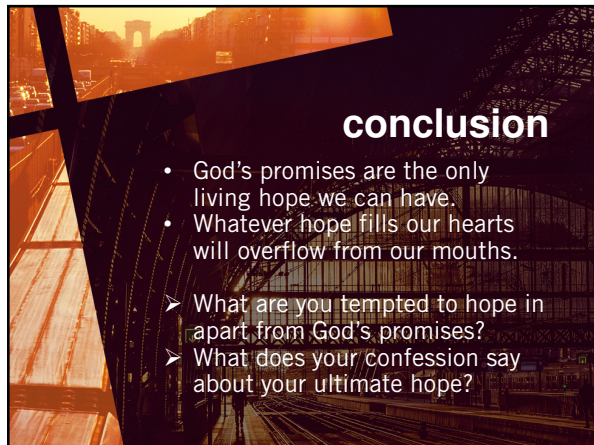


the spread of hope

People will see our lives and ask.

- We can't help talking about our ultimate hope.
- 'confession of hope' → witness

1 Pet 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.



conclusion

- God's promises are the only living hope we can have.
- Whatever hope fills our hearts will overflow from our mouths.

➤ What are you tempted to hope in apart from God's promises?

➤ What does your confession say about your ultimate hope?
