

Message Title: Fixing Our Hope
Speaker: Pastor Norm Willis
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A Sons and Daughters we are expected to labor and strive after a godliness that Paul says results in eternal profit.

1 Timothy 6:18-20 *(18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. 20 Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:)*

– Paul is very intentional in this posture of investing, using words like prescribe, teach, and instruct.

Paul mentions one of the characteristics of eternal value. He says, “Godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and the life to come.” Godliness is one of those investments that come with double reward. We profit from it here and in the eternal.

Jesus said in **Mark 10:50**, “**Those who leave it all for His sake will receive a hundred times as much, both in this age and in the age to come.**”

With promises like that, it’s no wonder Paul says we have a fixed hope. In **v.10**, he says, “**We have fixed our hope on the living God.**” That is, our confident expectation in God is steadfast, unmovable, non-negotiable. It is fixed, and it is incapable of being broken.

The reason our hope is so fixed is because hope is one of three eternals that always remain. “**Now remains faith, hope, and love...**” (**1 Corinthians 13: 13**) The reason it always remains is because hope is anchored in Christ’s power to provide, not in our ability to produce. Hope is fixed on us when we are fixed on Him.

If ever there was a time America needed a fixed hope that remains steadfast and unmovable, it is today. The problem is that **you can’t have a fixed hope until you first have a surrendered life**. A life surrendered to the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ results in a rock-solid, steadfast hope in every situation – death, disaster or demotion, your hope stays fixed.

One of the reasons we have such a confident celebration of life is the surety of our hope. Because our hope is first His hope, we function in the confidence of divine expectation, whatever the circumstance might be.

A fixed hope doesn’t mean disastrous circumstances won’t befall us. The rain falls on the just and unjust alike. A fixed hope means that whatever the circumstances, God turns that circumstance to good – for the just.

A fixed hope results in a “**held fast confession**” (**Hebrews 4:14** *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*). Fix your hope, and you’ll fix your negativity. A negative confession will break a fixed hope. A negative confession sows seeds that grow to weaken and undermine a fixed hope. But there is nothing broken about a fixed hope. Hope is a fixed reality that works in the life of the believer to distinguish us from the common man. The strength of God’s hope is that even against hope, hope hopes. The hope of hope is that it never loses hope, because the hope of hope is not our hope, but Christ’s hope hoping through us. It is a hope that **Hebrews 6:19** says is an anchor to the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast, one which enters inside the veil – in other words, it is His hope that comes to us.

Our hope is in Him, because His hope is in us. Because it’s Christ’s hope in us, that hope is fixed, steadfast, and unmovable.

In **Hebrews 1:3** *3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and*

upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:, we discover why Paul can boast of such a fixed, unmovable hope. The writer of Hebrews says, “**Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory, the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by the Word of His power.**” It is because of the providential power of Christ that our hope becomes so fixed. It’s an unmovable, non-negotiable hope because Christ is upholding all things **by the Word of his power**. Consequently, whatever circumstance affords, God turns it for His glory and our good.

Providence is defined as the God-conceived power to sustain and guide human destiny. That Jesus is the providential ruler of our lives means that He is always making provision for our future. Whatever the circumstance, whatever the twists, whatever life affords, Jesus makes provision. Consequently, we can profess a steadfast confession of a fixed hope.

Even in the wake of natural disasters, God is still in control. Jesus is still holding all things together. We do not live in a universe ruled by fate or nature. There is no Mother Nature – only Father God. Even insurance companies acknowledge that. Christ upholds all things, and by Him all things are held together. His hands are not tied by fate or limited to the fickleness of fate.

Romans 8:28 – “We know that God causes all things to work together for good ...” This is the consummate verse revealing the providential hand of God. Paul says, “**We know...**” It was a **non-negotiable statement of firm conviction, a conviction** that many in the church would no longer hold. Mental assent, perhaps, but not firm conviction.

How can God cause all things to work together for good if He is subject to fate or Mother Nature? In times of natural disaster or unexplainable horror, it’s easy to go the way of deism and think that God is no longer in control.

But natural **disaster doesn’t redefine the providence of God**. Even in the midst of disaster, God is still in control of every storm, every molecule of life. He is still making life to exist, holding life together and making it all for our good. In times of natural disaster, God does not need to hide behind fate or take refuge behind a Mother Nature that doesn’t exist.

The reason Paul could state with firm conviction, “We know God causes all things to work together for good,” the reason he could state with firm conviction, “We have fixed our hope in the living God,” is that **the truth we see is a big God, not a little devil**. He is a big God who, through his providential working in our lives, fixes our hope and causes all things to work together for good. **A fixed hope is a choice**. It’s a choice to take hold of Christ’s hope and put away negative confession