HOPE DEFERRED PROVERBS 13:12

PROVERBS 13:19

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. There are two verses in Proverbs 13 that present quite a contrast when studied together.

1. "Hope deferred…" 12

2. "The desire accomplished…" 19

B. Life is sweet when our desire is accomplished but our heart is sick when our hope is scattered.

II. EXPOSITION.

A. The desire accomplished.

1. Living on the mountain top when we see our desire accomplished is not so difficult.

a. The desire accomplished means simply that our longings and expectations have been given to us of God.

b. People have done as we thought they would, God's favor is obvious and His blessing abundant. Our circumstances are good and pleasant. Our desires have been achieved.

2. Certainly when our expectations are met it is sweet to our soul or pleasant to our lives.

3. What a great time of life it is when the expectations of life are met. However, let me give you two warnings.

a. Don't forget that in those times it is God that has given you the desire accomplished.

b. Life is like a wheel it keeps turning and moving and those circumstances are not permanent. Enjoy them, praise God for them and be ready for the time when life may not be so sweet.

B. Hope deferred.

1. Life holds many disappointments.

a. Literally, hope deferred means, "expectations scattered."

b. The thought of heart sick is an accurate description. It is a wounded spirit, a sorrowful soul, a discouraged mind.

2. There are many examples of disappointment in the Bible.

a. Cain that his sacrifice was refused

b. Moses was disappointed in the people when they were disappointed about being in the wilderness. It caused them to murmur and complain it caused Moses to strike the rock instead of speak to it.

c. Elijah was disappointed that after his stand on Mt. Carmel Jezebel could still force him to the wilderness and he got depressed as he sat under the juniper tree.

d. Mary and Martha were disappointed that Jesus did not come and heal Lazarus and it caused Martha to reprimand the Lord.

e. Peter was disappointed in himself when after he had denied Christ three times the Lord looked at him. He went out and wept over his denial of Christ.

3. As I see it from examples in the Word of God and experiences in my own life there are three areas that we get disappointed in.

a. Disappointed towards other people when they fail to do or be what we expect them to be.

b. Disappointment towards God when He allows other than circumstances where our expectations are achieved.

c. Disappointment in ourselves when we do not meet the expectations we have for ourselves or that others have for us.

4. We must be careful how we respond to disappointment in our lives.

a. Sometime the result is anger.

b. Sometimes the result is depression.

1) Depression overtook Elijah and Jonah when their expectations were not met.

2) But depression because of disappointment only prolongs the disappointment. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy of enduring bad feelings.

c. Sometimes the result is doubt.

1) I think both Mary and Martha went through a period of doubt after the death of Lazarus.

2) Their hopes had been so high when they sent for Jesus but they only gave lip service to His power when He came after Lazarus' death.

d. Sometimes disappointment can lead to bitterness, apathy, cynicism and many other maladies but it does not have to.

5. How must we respond to disappointment?

a. Review your expectations.

1) Make sure what you hoped for was what God wanted.

2) Be willing to want, work for, and hope for what God wants for your life.

b. Forgive people who disappoint you.

1) Remembering that you have disappointed others.

2) That your forgiveness will lead to your healing and their betterment.

c. Trust God.

1) He truly does know the beginning from the end and the path He wants you to take.

2) Remember He balances prosperity with adversity to bring us to maturity.

d. Ask the Holy Spirits help to change yourself. Peter went from vacillating to a man of great conviction after he sorrowed over the way he disappointed the Lord and himself.

III. CONCLUSION.

A. The result of disappointment in the believer’s life should be determination to achieve victory in Christ.

B. Hope may be deferred for a time but when we forgive, trust, grow, and follow God when expectations do come it will be like a tree a life.