



# **PATHFINDERS**

Leading this generation into true  
manhood!!

**Pathfinders are Hopeful!**

**Hebrews 10:23**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on October 16, 2021**



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# Pathfinders are Hopeful!

*Hebrews 10:23*

## Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- Turn to **Jeremiah 31**
- Kevin sent me a link to the video you guys watched last Saturday
- Jon Courson shared a message out of Jeremiah 31
- As a father and grandfather, it really spoke to me
- Pastor Jon reminded us that we have an enemy that hates us and is determined to devour us and our children and grandchildren
- He also reminded us that we have a Father in Heaven who loves us, and our children passionately loves them more than we do and is determined to bring good into our lives and theirs
- **Jeremiah 31:15**
- Pastor Jon did a good job of describing the pain of having children or grandchildren who are making poor choices with their lives
- He also reminded us that they are freewill agents – they are making their own choices
- Jeremiah counters the sadness of wayward children with a promise from God
- **Jeremiah 31:16-17**
- It is the hope of every parent of a wayward child that they would return – back to the family – back to living right – back to church and God – back to you
- There are three elements in this promise that are important for us to understand
- These three elements apply to all of God’s promises
- The first one is – **Elements of God’s Promises: Faith**
- “they shall come back”
- God keeps every promise that He makes **Hebrews 10:23**  
**Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.**
- When is God faithful? Always! To whom is He faithful? Everyone!

- But we must not forget that God has chosen, because He is sovereign, the basis by which He will interact with humanity – by faith **Hebrews 11:6**

**But without faith *it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

- Faith is knowing God and His Word and believing them to be true and letting the truth of God’s Word influence our behavior
  - The greater our faith, the more we please God
  - The more we please God, the more we can expect Him to act on our behalf
  - It is a mystery – God is sovereign – He does what He wants to do
  - And as our faith lines up with His Word and will – things happen
  - The text says, “Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears...”
  - In my role as a pastor, I can’t tell you how many times I have witnessed the tears of parents or grandparents weeping for their children
  - Often what is going on with the children or grandchildren feels hopeless to them
  - From a human perspective it probably is hopeless – impossible
  - But, with God nothing is hopeless or impossible
  - God is faithful and God’s Word is true
  - In our times of hopelessness, we need to trust in His promises and lean on His faithfulness
  - The first– **Elements of God’s Promises: Faith**
  - The second is – **Obedience**
  - Jeremiah is inspired to comment on what they were doing, “For your work shall be rewarded, says the LORD...”
  - What work? – the work of faith! **James 2:17**
- Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**
- If our faith is real, it will be doing something that proves our faith
  - What is the work of faith?
  - Since faith is based on knowing God and His Word, the first work of faith is Bible reading and study **Romans 10:17**
- So then faith *comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

- The second work of faith is listening for the leading of the Holy Spirit
- God will speak to us by His Spirit in accordance with what He has said in His Word
- It is a work of faith to discern God’s voice from all the noise in our lives – taught on that last Sunday
- Some of the works of faith are prayer, forgiveness, generosity, grace, mercy
- Faith and works are so interconnected that you can’t have one without the other
- As faith grows, your works of faith become more effective
- As you do the works of faith, your faith grows
- The Lord said through Jeremiah “Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears...”
- Not telling us to not to feel sad or cry – instead, don’t despair as if there is no hope
- As long as there is life, there is hope!
- As faith grows and we discover what works of faith God is calling us to do, we must do them – that is obedience
- James give us this truth from the negative perspective **James 4:17**  
**Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.**
- The ‘good’ we should do is whatever God tells us to do or not to do, like weeping as if there is no hope
- I don’t know about you but there have been many times in my life when there was something in my relationship with my children or my wife or others that I didn’t know how to fix it
- God does! And as Pastor Jon said, God loves them infinitely more than you do or ever will
- And sometimes I have tried to fix what was going on and messed it up – I did it wrong
- God never makes mistakes – we must learn to trust Him
- That brings us to the third of **Elements of God’s Promises**
- The first were **Faith and Obedience**
- How do we know if we have enough faith and are walking in obedience doing the right works of faith?
- We can answer that question with a question, ‘Do you have hope?’

- The third of **Elements of God's Promises: Hope**
- As your faith grows and you walk obediently doing the works of faith the more hope will grow
- Hope is the fruit of faith and obedience

**Hope: the confident expectation of coming good.**

- Faith teaches me that God is good – all the time **Mark 10:18**  
So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God.”

• It also teaches me that God has good in store for me **Romans 8:28**  
**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

- The work of faith in that verse is to ‘love God’
- We love God by walking in Spirit-directed obedience to God and His Word **John 14:15**

**If you love Me, keep My commandments.**

- Hope is not naturally occurring in the human heart
- Hope is what sustains us when we look into the lives of our children and grandchildren and see the poor choices they are making, that we know will result in pain and suffering in their lives
- Hope is what holds us together when we see the world falling apart around us
- Hope, the fruit of faith and obedience, is what gives us the strength, courage, and ability to keep moving forward when everything in us wants to give up and quit
- We have an enemy, and he wants us to give up
- He wants us to give up on our faith, our troubled kids, our challenging marriages
- He wants us to give up on anything that we could do that would bring glory to God
- Jesus told us what Satan's goal is **John 10:10a**  
**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.**
- The ‘thief’ = Satan, the Devil
- If Satan is going after your kids or grandkids, it is because he sees something in them that is a threat to his kingdom
- It can be hard to look to the future and not see anything good coming in the lives of those who are important to, or your life

- And that is where hope must come in
- Right after Jesus told us what Satan was doing in the world, He said  
**John 10:10b**  
**I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**
- I believe that is true – eternal life and an abundant life today is God’s will for everyone who will love Him
- If I look into the future and don’t see good things, naturally I am going to feel fear or anger or depression or numerous other negative emotions
- But because I have been redeemed by the blood of Christ I can choose another response – I can choose hope
- My hope is not in the circumstance I am concerned about changing
- My hope is in God who loves me and my children and grandchildren and everyone else that I care about
- My hope is in Sovereign, Almighty God who is able to change those circumstances for the good
- There are few things that are harder on the heart than having someone you love not walking with the Lord and walking in ways that are causing them unnecessary pain and suffering
- Satan wants you to live in that pain – to allow that pain to become the center of your life
- Jesus wants you to give that pain to Him **Matthew 11:28-30**  
**Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**  
**<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**
- Hope is a powerful weapon against the attacks of the devil
- When you get that call and learn that your son or daughter is struggling again, the Devil will whisper in your ear, ‘It is hopeless!’
- You remind yourself, with God there is no such thing as hopeless
- Listen, that doesn’t mean that everything is going to turn out the way you want it to
- Because your son or daughter was given the same freedom to choose or reject God and His Word that you have
- But it will turn out a way that God will make good out of
- As I grow in my faith, I am becoming more comfortable with that

- Hope is powerful and essential if you want to be the man God created you to be
- A hopeless leader cannot lead others to where God wants them to go
- A hopeful leader can lead people where they are afraid to go
- In 1 Corinthians 13 the apostle Paul describes the nature of love
- He will close the chapter by saying it is preeminent over everything we do – but it is not alone **1 Corinthians 13:13**

**And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

- Sometimes it feels like the only thing we can do with our wayward children is to love them
- But that is never true – we can also choose to believe God has a good plan for their lives
- And we can choose to place our hope in the promises of God even when, humanly speaking, it is hopeless
- Faith, obedience, and hope or faith, hope, and love
- Grow in faith – get to know God and His promises – believe them
- Seek to hear God’s voice and then do what He says
- Place your hope in God and in His promises
- And every chance you get, you share your hope with those who need hope
- One last verse before we close
- This is something of a benediction by Paul **Romans 15:13**  
**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- When we put our trust in God and believe what He has said in His Word we can know peace and joy and ‘abound in hope’
- That is exactly what the world around us needs right now
- They need us to abound with hope – will you believe?
- This applies in all areas of our life, not just with our kids and grandkids
- **Let’s pray!**