

Hope & Change?

Is the “Battleground”

“Hope” is being crushed

Ephesians 4:11-13

and



Ephesians 4:14

“Change” is the weapon!

**Individual Christian Solidarity
Is The Defense Ephesians 4:15-16**



Ephesians 4:11-16

And **He Himself gave some** to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12 for** the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, **for** the edifying of the body of Christ, **13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God,** to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;



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Ephesians 4:11-16

14 that we should **no longer be children**, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, **15** but, speaking the truth in love, **may grow up** in all things **into Him who is the head--Christ--** **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, **according to the effective working by which every part does its share**, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

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“Hope” Crushed by:

- 1. Failed promises;***
- 2. Offer of limited solutions;***
- 3. Dismal predictions of the future;***
- 4. No God to help!***

“Hope” Sustained by:

- 1. Spiritual structure for support; “He gave”***
- 2. Unchanging spiritual goal; “for”***
- 3. Protector of the future; “till”***





“He Gave”—Son, Some

Hope for the unseen, not the seen.

2 Corinthians 5:5-9

“Now **He who has prepared us for this very thing is God**, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. **6 So we are always confident**, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.** **8 We are confident**, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. **9 Therefore we make it our aim**, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him.**”

“For”

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“Equipping of the saints”

With Scripture **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

“Edifying of the body”



With Truth **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

“Therefore **comfort** each other and **edify one another**, just as you also are doing.”

“Till” **Hope & Change?**

“We All Come To”

“The Unity of the Faith”

Acts 6:7 “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and **a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.**” *(They did!)*

Philippians 1:27 “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, **that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,**” *(They did!)*

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“Tossed” (agitated by waves)

Can describe a salad, but not a saint!

A saint may be tossed by:



“wind of doctrine”

(whirled as by tornado or hurricane)

“trickery of men” (dice)



“cunning craftiness” (by any deed)

“deceitful plotting” (methods)

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[Elihu] “If you can answer me, Set *your words* in order before me; **Take your stand.** (**Job 33:5**)

[God] “No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him [Leviathan] up. **Who then is able to stand against Me?**” (**Job 41:10**)

“Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They have bowed down and fallen; **But we have risen and stand upright**” (**Psalms 20:7-8**)

From God With Love

Romans 6:3-4

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death,** that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

