

HOPE: THE CHRISTIAN'S ANCHOR

Christians do not have an "I hope so" kind of faith. Our hope is sure and steadfast, founded on the nature of God himself and the sure word of his promises. Christian hope is bound up in the future as it anticipates the eternal life we have in Christ. As a result, hope powerfully alters our lives in the present.

THE DEFINITION AND GROUND OF CHRISTIAN HOPE

Christians must understand true Christian hope and where it is grounded.

1. How is the word "hope" commonly used today?

2. In **Psa 130:5-6**, what word does the Psalmist use as a synonym for hope?

3. Read **Rom 8:18-25**. In **v25**, how does Paul describe the life of hope?

Note: For many, 'hope' is often used of things that we prefer will happen, but may not. Biblical hope is very different; its hope is *the believing expectation of the true promises of God revealed in his Word.*

4. What two things does Paul teach about faith in **Rom 8:24**?

5. In **Psa 42:5,11,43:5** & **1 Ti 1:1**, in whom do believers hope? [*cf.* Psa 146:5]

6. In **Col 1:5** & **23**, how did we receive our hope? [*cf.* Psa 119:49, 81, 147]
What, according to **Tit 1:2**, give us assurance of our hope?

7. In **Psa 147:11** & **Rom 5:5**, what divine attribute assures us of our hope?

8. How long should we hold onto our hope in **Heb 6:11-12**?

➤ Hope is the future implementation of that which we currently believe. We hope in God because he loves us and has given us his promises in his word.

WHAT CHRISTIANS HOPE FOR

Christian hope is relevant because of three painful realities in the lives of believers: daily sin, suffering and pain, and death.

1. Read **1 Pet 1:21**. Why can we have hope in Christ and his promises?

2. In **1 Cor 15:19**, what, if true, would make believers most to be pitied?

3. In **1 Thes 4:13**, why do unbelievers grieve over the dead? Explain.

4. What is our hope in **1 Pet 1:3-5**?

Note: Christians hope in eternal life and the return of the Lord.

5. What is our future hope in **1 John 3:2-3**?

Note: Christians hope in sinless perfection at Christ's return.

6. What does God take away in **Rev 21:4**? [cf. Rom 8:19-23]

7. What does **Rev 21:22-22:5** portray as the reason heaven is so hoped for?

➤ The future for which Christians hope is marked by Christ's return, sinless perfection, the absence of pain and suffering, and the presence of God himself.

HOW CHRISTIAN HOPE CHANGES OUR LIVES

The Bible also teaches that our hope radically changes our lives.

1. Though the word "hope" does not appear in **1 Pet 5:8-10**, Peter uses the idea of hope to motivate us to do what?

Note: Our hope helps us fight temptation because it is temporary.

2. How does hope in a future resurrection motivate us in **1 Cor 15:57-58**?

3. What did Paul's hope in the living God move him to do in **1 Tim 4:10**?

4. In **Heb 10:23-25**, how does hope influence a local church's relationships?

5. How do we respond to trials because of our hope in **Rom 12:12**?

6. Back in **Rom 8:18-25**, how do we look at suffering because of our hope?

➤ Hope helps believers fight temptation, motivates them to work ardently for God, and fosters Christian edification. Through hope we endure suffering. Hope gives us joy and strengthens our endurance, as we with expectation look beyond this world to our assured hope in God and eternal life.