



HOPE!



Before I get started I would like to make it clear that I am not speaking for any group nor anyone else for that matter but am simply attempting to put forth what I believe the Lord has revealed to me and hopefully continuing to reveal to me. Please do as scripture exhorts and prove (*test*) all things but I implore you that your test be kept strictly with what scripture says and not according to what other men say or have said or what any tradition says. Please see Acts 17:10-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:21 and 1 John 4:1. – Tom



HOPE! What a glorious four letter word!! And what an encouraging and uplifting topic to meditate upon! Even though I feel that I cannot really do it justice and I'm sure there are far better writings on the subject out there, yet, I still feel like writing on the subject. I still remember the first time the Lord really brought this to my attention. My wife, Tori, and I were discussing this wonderful subject and it donned on me and I said to her:

“I can't say this to people. I can't say that I am saved by hope in Christ. As it is most already think I am loony in my views. And then to say that I am not 100% positive that I am saved but have a hope of eternal life. They'll really have something to talk about!”

But, you know what? **SO WHAT!** I fully believe that to have a **HOPE** of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ because of what He has done is by far better than to have an “assurance of salvation” because of something I did! Now that I have been brought to a fuller understanding of what it means, I love saying it!

The religious world **HATES** this word though. They attempt to minimize it so much that it has very little value in Scripture to them. I personally have heard someone get indignant that just having a **HOPE** of salvation is not enough but one needs “assurance of salvation”. Also, I can’t even remember ever hearing a sermon on the subject of **HOPE**, let alone just talk amongst the people on the topic. And yet, it is one of the three gifts that Paul mentions in his first letter to the Corinthians that abide. It *should* be a topic of conversation wherever God’s children are assembled!

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” (I Corinthians 13:13).

The word “hope” means “*expectation or confidence*”. It can be negative or positive. By that I mean that one can have an expectation of evil or an expectation of good. And in the sense of a believer, hope is a joyful and confident expectation of eternal life. We can be confident in the fact of **HIS** completed work and look with expectation of eternal life with Him and His saints.

Let’s start out with these verses from the letter written to the Romans:

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*. (Romans 8:24-25)

The words “we are saved” are very interesting to me. Now, we all know what it means to save someone or something. It means to rescue them or it from danger or destruction. The part that is interesting to me is that it is in the passive voice. What that means is that the subject, which is the “we” in the verse, is the recipient of the action and has nothing to do with it, that is, the saving. We (*God’s elect*) are saved “by” or “in” hope.

But, we can’t stop there in this verse. Notice it goes on with “but hope that is seen is not hope...” I don’t know about you, but to me this makes perfect sense. How can one have a confident expectation of something happening if it has already happened? I once knew someone who would sign a letter with “fulfilled hope” and thought of this verse above. If our **HOPE** is fulfilled, then it ceases to be **HOPE** but is now reality. Paul says very clearly that “for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?” In other words, if what we are hoping for has already been accomplished, then we should see it and therefore have no need of **HOPE**, and thus nullifying any **HOPE** that there was. Because it is no longer **HOPE**, but is now reality. But, God’s children do have a **HOPE** of His soon coming and their salvation resulting in eternal life!

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:2)

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. (**Galatians 5:5**)

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (**Ephesians 4:4**)

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (**I Thessalonians 5:8**)

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; (**Titus 1:2**)

That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (**Titus 3:7**)

As you can see from the above verses, once God quickens a sinner and grants him repentance, He also gives him the gift of **HOPE**. His children have been given a **HOPE** of eternal life and a “**HOPE** of salvation” as a “helmet”. In those days a “helmet” was a piece of armory meant to cover and protect the head of a soldier. Other than the heart, the head is one of the most crucial areas to protect. It was not meant to be used offensively but was used defensively and would protect the head from swords, rocks, arrows and spears. (*Kind of like the “fiery darts of the wicked” [Ephesians 6:16] that Paul mentions.*) In today’s world we look at a helmet basically the same way. It is used in many different fashions like a baseball player uses one when at the plate to attempt to hit the ball. It is used by a motorcycle and bicycle rider to protect the head against a possible fall. Again, not offensive but simply defensive. The “helmet” for a believer is the **HOPE** (*confident expectation*) of salvation. Very interesting that it doesn’t say “assurance of salvation”!

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope; (**I Timothy 1:1**)

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (**Titus 2:13**)

Looking at 1 Timothy we see that Christ is our **HOPE**. If you notice that the words “which is” are in *italics*. That means that they were added by the translators and really don’t belong. They put them there to attempt to make it flow better and be easier to understand but without them there, it still makes perfect sense. It should read, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.” Then in Titus, what is Paul talking about when he mentions that we are “looking for that blessed hope...”?

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (**I John 3:2**)

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. (**I John 3:3**)

When we look at the previous verse in Titus it says: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” (**Titus 2:11-13**). So, both verses compliment each other and point to Christ’s Second Coming when our **HOPE** of being like Him, will be fulfilled and become a reality.

In the book of Psalms, the word “hope” is mentioned 22 times. Here are but a few of them.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. (**Psalms 16:9**)

But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother’s breasts. (**Psalms 22:9**)

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD. (**Psalms 31:24**)

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; (**Psalms 33:18**)

Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee. (**Psalms 33:22**)

And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope *is* in thee. (**Psalms 39:7**)

For thou *art* my hope, O Lord GOD: *thou art* my trust from my youth. (**Psalms 71:5**)

But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. (**Psalms 71:14**)

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. (**Psalms 130:5**)

Happy *is he* that *hath* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope *is* in the LORD his God: (**Psalms 146:5**)

The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. (**Psalms 147:11**)

HOPE has had a big impact and has been of great importance to God's people all through the ages. Look with me at this next verse.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (**I Peter 3:15**)

Peter is exhorting the brethren in his letter to be always ready to give an answer to any one and every one that asks for their reason of the **HOPE** that is within them. Notice again that it doesn't say for the "assurance" that is within them but the "hope". Our **HOPE** is focused on Christ and His completed work and to someday be like Him. But we also know that day will not come until He comes back in power and glory! And that **HOPE** that He has given us is like an anchor and keeps us focused and grounded.

That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; (**Hebrews 6:18-19**)

In the verses above, you will probably notice that in verse 19 the word "hope" is italicized. Again, this means that it really isn't there, but even if it wasn't there, it wouldn't change the meaning at all. It would read like this: "...who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the **HOPE** set before us: Which we have as an anchor of the soul,..." Actually, to me it sounds better without the second **HOPE** in there. It seems less redundant.

The word **HOPE** is such a steady staple amongst the people of God, that Paul mentions it at least once in all of his letters save one. The one letter that it is not mentioned is in II Timothy. It *should* be as steady of a theme in each of the saints lives as well! It *should* be a constant meditation and be in our thoughts and minds all the time. In fact, it was because of this **HOPE** that was so much a part of Paul's letters and life, that he was called into question and scrutinized.

But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men *and* brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. (**Acts 23:6**)

And then in the next chapter, Paul is standing before the high priest who was accusing him before the Governor. Then the Governor called upon Paul to defend himself and Paul told him that the accusations against him were false. But he does go on and confirm something to him.

But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets. And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men. (**Acts 24:14-16**)

Paul had a **HOPE** of the resurrection of the dead. And this resurrection is not only for the “just” but also for the “unjust”. The “just” meaning those who have been justified by the blood of the Lamb, and the “unjust” meaning those are not justified or the non-elect. We as believers have this same **HOPE** and are looking for with great anticipation the resurrection of the just and the unjust!

In hope,

Thomas R. Adams

June 29, 2004

Updated: January 2024

GodIsSovereign@mail.com