

The Christian's Hope

1 John 3:1-3; Titus 2:11-13

Hope Defined:

Hope is defined as “**desire with expectation of obtaining what is desired.**”

- ◉ Desire alone is not hope.
- ◉ Expectation alone is not hope.

What The Christian's Hope Is:

- ◉ Appearing of the glory of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:16**
 - ◉ Dead in Christ raised. **1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28f**
 - ◉ United with the person of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:17; Philippians 1:23**
 - ◉ Eternity in the presence of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:17**
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

What The Christian's Hope Is:

- ◉ Heaven, with all of its joy and bliss, its beauty and grandeur, is the hope of the Christian.
 - **Colossians 1:5** “We give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have toward all the saints, because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens ...” (cf. **Ephesians 4:4**)
- ◉ We ought to desire it and we ought to expect it!

The Ground Of The Christian's Hope

- ◉ **We are “children of God.”**
 - The manner of our becoming children of God: the new birth. **John 3:3-5. cf. Galatians 3:26f.** – children of God by faith when we are baptized into Him.
 - The honor of being children of God: to be a child of the King. “**The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with (him), that we may be also glorified with (him).**” **Romans 8:16-17**

The Ground Of The Christian's Hope

- ◉ **No one except a child of God can have this hope of heaven.**
 - Those not children of God ... without God, without hope (**Ephesians 2:12**).
 - Heaven is a prepared place (**John 14:2**), for a prepared people ... those who submit to Christ and become children of God.

The Ground Of The Christian's Hope

- ◉ **Faithfulness and godliness are necessary** for the child of God to have the hope of heaven.
- *Revelation 2:10 "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life."*

Heaven – The place of ...

- Everlasting Bliss! *Revelation 7:16-17; Revelation 21:4*
- Fellowship in The Light of God's Glory! *Revelation 21:22-25*
- The Faithful of All Ages! *Matthew 8:11; Hebrews 11*
- The "city foursquare" – A Paradise! *Revelation 21:16-21*
- Ultimate Purity! *Revelation 21:27*
- Of Eternal Rest For the Souls of The Faithful! *Revelation 14:13*

*"... which we have as an anchor of the soul,
(a hope) both sure and stedfast and
entering into that which is within the veil"
Hebrews 6:19*

Do you have this HOPE?

*"For I reckon that the sufferings of this
present time are not worthy to be compared
with the glory which shall be revealed to us-
ward." Romans 8:18*