

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

1 John 3:1-3; Titus 2:11-13;
Ephesians 4:4

Hope Defined:

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

- **Desire alone is not hope.** Illustrations: a gift of a thousand dollars; good will of everyone; reunion in this life of all friends and loved ones. We may desire these things, but certainly we cannot hope for them.
- **Expectation alone is not hope.** Illustrations: sickness; taxes; punishing children. We may expect these in life, but we do not desire them; hence, we do not hope for them.

What The Christian's Hope Is Not:

- It is not the hope that we are Christians. **Romans 8:16**
- It is not the hope that ALL will be ultimately saved. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 21:8**
- It is not the hope of a millennial reign with Christ. **John 18:36; 1 Corinthians 15:24**

What The Christian's Hope Is:

- Appearing of the glory of Christ. **Titus 2:13; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16**
- Raised by the power of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:28-29**
- United with the person of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:17; Philippians 1:23**
- Conformed to the image of Christ. **1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:20-21**
- Eternity in the presence of Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:3**

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; Ephesians 4:4**
- We ought to desire it and we ought to expect it!

Heaven - The place of ...

- **Everlasting Bliss! Revelation 7:16-17; 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**

The GROUND Of The Christian's Hope

- ◎ **We are “children of God.”**
 - The reason for our being children of God: God's love. **1 John 3:1; cf. John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:10**
 - The manner of our becoming children of God: the new birth. **John 3:3-5. cf. Galatians 3:26-27** – children of God by faith when we are baptized.
 - The honor of being children of God: to be a child of the King is the greatest honor that can be bestowed on mortal man. **Romans 8:17**

The GROUND Of The Christian's Hope

- ◎ **No one, except a child of God, can have this hope of heaven.**
 - Hope is in Christ (**1 Corinthians 15:19**), and only children of God are in Christ (**Galatians 3:26ff**).
 - Those who are not children of God are certainly without God, and those without God are without hope (**Ephesians 2:12**).
 - Heaven is a prepared place (**John 14:2**), for a prepared people – those who will 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.**
 - **Titus 2:11-13; Revelation 2:10.**

The RESULT Of The Christian's Hope

- ◎ **Hope Purifies.** 1 John 3:3, *“And every one that hath this hope (set) on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”*
 - Christians must be pure. **Matthew 5:8; 1 Timothy 5:22; Romans 12:1-2.**
 - The brighter our hope, the purer in heart and life we will be; and the purer in heart and life, the brighter our hope of heaven.
 - Desiring heaven and expecting heaven makes for purity. **cf. Colossians 3:1-4.**

The RESULT Of The Christian's Hope

- ◎ **Hope Anchors.** **Hebrews 6:19**
 - Steadfastness and perseverance are necessary. **1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 1:23**
 - In the midst of troubles, sorrows, and temptations, hope as an anchor of the soul saves us. **Romans 8:23-25**
 - Hope gives confidence and courage. **cf. Romans 5:1-5**

The RESULT Of The Christian's Hope

- ◎ **Hope Rejoices.** **Romans 5:2**
 - Christians must be joyful. **Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16; cf. Acts 20:22-24**
 - The hope of heaven should cause rejoicing. **Romans 12:12; Matthew 5:12**
 - Let us rejoice every day in hope.

The RESULT Of The Christian's Hope

◎ **Hope Answers. 1 Peter 3:15**

- Our hope is based upon the deity of Christ.
John 8:24
- Our hope is based upon the authority of Christ.
Matthew 28:18ff
- Our hope is based upon the promises of Christ.
Mark 16:16

The STRENGTH Of The Christian's Hope Depends Upon:

◎ **The strength of desire.**

How badly do I want to go to heaven?

◎ **The strength of expectation.**

This is dependent upon our faith in God who has promised, and upon our own consciousness of the kind of life we live.

**This hope is worth more
than all of the world.**

**Do you have
HOPE?**

2 Timothy 4:6-8, "For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing."