

## We Have Hope As An Anchor

We live in a world of people without hope brought about by a world society guided by the principles of godlessness, materialism, secular humanism, etc. People have given themselves to idolatry, immorality, and other sins of the flesh resulting in broken homes, divorce, sickness and death. A society in which people have looked to every source but God Himself to satisfy their own selfish desires and find peace and security. In every way they have rejected the blessings available in their Creator and have separated themselves from the hope that could have sustained them in this life.

Hope is one of the three essential elements of a fulfilled life. In 1 Corinthians 13:13, Paul said, "But now abideth faith, hope, love..." (ASV). While love is the greatest attribute of all three, faith and hope are joined together in a special way. One cannot claim to have faith if hope is not present for it is a demonstration of one's faith. Therefore there is no hope without faith. The world needs that on which they can place their hope. That hope (ELPIS - Greek) is characterized by the Hebrew writer as "an anchor of the soul," securing man through the storms of this life (Hebrews 6:18-19).

### The Hope Of The World

Our God has given us that "anchor of the soul" made possible by the giving of His Son for us all. He, God, is the source of all hope. Paul's desire for the brethren of Rome was that "the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13). This hope was in Christ was affirmed by the Hebrew writer in Hebrews 6:17-20 where he said,

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: 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; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

The promise that God made to Abraham was that through him all nations of the earth would be blessed, meaning through Jesus the promised seed, God confirmed with an oath (Genesis 12:1-3). And as it is impossible for God to lie, we are recipients of that promised hope through Christ.

Not only to the Jew but also to the Gentile was this blessed hope given. For the scripture says: "to whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). We see in this verse the implications that hope is something that is eternal in nature. For those who trust in Christ rejoice in the hope of the glory of God knowing that whatever may happen in life, a faithful Christian will experience an eternal reward.

### Accessing This Great Hope

Because of human suffering, a song sung often in Africa is, *Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary*. People of the third world are not as blessed as we are in the United States. Many of us have not experienced the pains of hunger, the fear of not being able to secure health care, physical persecution from our fellow man, the inability to support

your family with the basic needs for survival and the superstitions associated with traditional man made religions which tear at the souls of the people and leave them hopeless. But it seems that these people who have so little in life are looking for the hope that is available from our God. And God has not left them hopeless. They can have the same blessings and experience the same hope for it is available to all peoples of all nations.

The basis of the call of the Gospel is:

...that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power (Ephesians 1:18b-19).

You see, the Bible is clear. We are called by the gospel that is the good news that Jesus has come to this earth to give us abundant life (2 Thessalonians 2:14; John 10:10). The calling is an invitation of God, the Father, made in and through Jesus, His Son. You are invited to that great "one hope" of our calling (Ephesians 4:6).

The "one hope of our calling" is an outpouring of God's love and it is clearly seen in faithful Christians who are able to bear the storms of life: at home, in the church, financial struggles, sicknesses, deaths, persecution, etc. Paul was a great example of this. He declared, "according to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death" (Philippians 1:20). This was demonstrated throughout his entire life after he became a Christian (2 Corinthians 11:23-28). The Apostle Paul accessed these blessings through his obedience to the gospel. That is: Belief

(John 8:24), Repentance (Acts 2:38), Confession (Romans 10:9-10) and Baptism (Acts 2:38).

### Hope's Demonstration In A Christian

As we obey the gospel not only do we experience the inexpressible feeling of being free from our sins but hope feels our spiritual being and is demonstrated in so many ways in our lives. It is somewhat like unto the experience of a baby being born into this world. Upon the birth of the baby, feelings of great hope and optimism enter the hearts of the parents, causing them to fashion their lives to provide everything that child might need to structure every aspect of its life. So it is with the newborn child of God. Their life changes because they now have the great hope founded in the precious promises in Christ. The change in thought, purpose, and actions can clearly be seen by all. Some of those changes experienced are spoken of in the book of Hebrews as the writer speaks of the results of a Christian's hope.

Christian hope causes us to labor so that we may enter into that "rest": "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:11). By being ready unto every good work we know that if we are "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" that our labor will not be "vain in the Lord" because of our hope (Titus 3:1; 1 Corinthians 15:58). Hope within the Christian causes us to know the power and need of prayer. The confidence a Christian has is greatly due to the fact that we know God is listening. Again the Hebrew writer said, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). We know that God hears us and will answer our prayers according to his will

(James 5:16; Philippians 4:6-8). The realization of God's hope within us causes us to "go on to maturity" as we see that we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." It causes us to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us" and enables us to "run with patience the race that is set before us" (Hebrew 6:1, 12:1). Truly, as we "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful who promised)" (Hebrews 10:22-23).

A life without the hope we can have because of God's love is a hopeless life. We, as Christians, have been begotten again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3). As someone stated, our hope is not in self, not in experience, not in circumstances, not in the power of the state, not in the authority of an ecclesiastical system or order, but in the promise of the living God through His great High Priest Christ Jesus, who has entered in the holy of holies of God's very presence. As we navigate through the perils of life, we are assured on every hand that God is with us and will protect us and keep us until that day when we will enter into that final "rest." We need only to humble ourselves and be obedient to His will to receive that precious promise of hope.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-West Lectures, "God's Precious Promises." To hear or view the complete lesson go to [www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm) or contact the 39th Street Church of Christ 15331 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

*God's Precious Promises...*

# We Have Hope As An Anchor

by  
Jerry Sullins

© 2009



*International Bible Studies  
Tract Series*