

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. **Rom. 8:16**
- ◉ It is not the hope that ALL will be ultimately saved. **2 Thess. 1:8f.; Rev. 21:8**
- ◉ It is not the hope of a millennial reign with Christ. **Jno. 18:36; 1 Cor. 15:24**

What The Christian's Hope Is:

- ◉ Appearing of the glory of Christ. **Titus 2:13; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16**
- ◉ Raised by the power of Christ. **1 Thess. 4:16; John 5:28f**
- ◉ United with the person of Christ. **1 Thess. 4: 17; Phil. 1:23**
- ◉ Conformed to the image of Christ. **1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:49; Phil. 3:20-21**
- ◉ Eternity in the presence of Christ. **1 Thess. 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. **Col. 1:5; Eph. 4:4**
- ◉ We ought to desire it and we ought to expect it!

Heaven - The place of...

- **Everlasting Bliss!** **Rev. 7:16-17; Rev. 21:4**
- **Fellowship in The Light of God's Glory!** **Rev. 21:22-25**
- **The Faithful of All Ages!** **Mt. 8:11; Heb. 11**
- **The “city foursquare” – A Paradise!** **Rev. 21:16-21**
- **Ultimate Purity!** **Rev. 21:27**
- **Of Eternal Rest For the Souls of The Faithful!** **Rev. 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; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:10**
 - The manner of our becoming children of God: the new birth. **John 3:3-5. Cf. Gal. 3:26f.** — 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. **Rom. 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 Cor. 15:19**), and only children of God are in Christ (**Gal. 3:26f.**).
 - Those who are not children of God are certainly without God, and those without God are without hope (**Eph. 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; Rev. 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. **Mt. 5:8; 1 Tim. 5:22; Rom. 12:1f.**
 - 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. Col. 3:1-4.**

The Result Of The Christian's Hope

- ◉ **Hope Anchors.** **Heb. 6:19**
 - Steadfastness and perseverance are necessary. **1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:23**
 - In the midst of troubles, sorrows, & temptations, hope as an anchor of the soul saves us. **Rom. 8:23-25**
 - Hope gives confidence and courage. **Cf. Rom. 5:1-5**

The Result Of The Christian's Hope

- ◉ **Hope Rejoices.** **Rom. 5:2**
 - Christians must be joyful. **Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16; cf. Acts 20:22-24**
 - The hope of heaven should cause rejoicing. **Rom. 12:12; Mt. 5:12**
 - Let us rejoice every day in hope.

The Result Of The Christian's Hope

- **Hope Answers. 1 Pet. 3:15**
 - Our hope is based upon the deity of Christ.
Jno. 8:24
 - Our hope is based upon the authority of Christ.
Mt. 28:18ff
 - Our hope is based upon the promises of Christ.
Mk. 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 Tim 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."