

The Anchor of the Soul
By Trey Sullins

“But I do not want you to be ignorant... lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.” This was the opening statement Paul gave as he began to explain the second coming in 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Hope is something that is often lost among people in the world. Even further, naturalist ideologies teach that there is no hope for the individual and that our short lives are all there is. However, with God hope is real and a major focus of who we are as His creation. The Bible uses the word hope over 140 times in the New King James Version. Needless to say, it is necessary for the Christian to understand their hope.

Our hope is sure because God issues it. In 1 Thessalonians 4:14, Paul points out that belief in the death and resurrection of Christ confirms to us that we will be resurrected as well. This follows Paul pointing out a lack of hope in some in verse thirteen. The point being made by the Holy Spirit here is that an understanding of God and what He did for us is what brings us hope. When you see politicians on making claims and promises about things which they will do in the future, do you ever think, “I know with certainty they will do what they have said.” You probably have not thought that too often, if ever! Sometimes we have a shaky hope that they will follow through, but often times we know they will not. When you consider the great hope that we have through God and His promises, you never once have to question whether it is legitimate or not.

Our hope is sure because God cannot lie. This means our hope is certain and “set before us” (Hebrews 6:18-19). When you are driving down the road and you see the sign for your favorite restaurant, you know with certainty that you will arrive at that destination. You would not expect the sign to be inaccurate and that up ahead there was no restaurant. In the same way the hope we have through God helps us to know that our destination of heaven is right ahead if we stay in the course. In Hebrews 11:39 the Bible says, “And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise.” Even though these heroes in Hebrews 11 did not see the completion of what God had promised them, they still knew whatever God said was going to happen. With this great motivation in mind they continued in faith and obedience to the Creator and so must we!

Our hope is sure because God has all power. The Psalmist David in Psalm 39 is contemplating the short days of the life of man. In verse four he wrote, “LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am.” David shows a clear realization that he is pretty powerless compared to God. God knows and can see all of time while we can only see what is now. Not only can He see all of time, but He has control over all things. Jesus makes this exact point in relationship to worrying, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body...If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you.”(Matthew 6:30). God controls all things because He has the power to do such (Psalm 33:6). God also knows all things (Psalm 147:5) and therefore will make sure that His promises are completed. Seeing all this power of God should make it clear in our mind that God will fulfill His promises and our hope is certain.

While some remain ignorant of the hope God manifested to the world, the Christian cannot be. Life may bring us down and trials may come, but beyond this life there is the greatest reward we

can ever imagine. Our hope must be as the prophet Jeremiah describes “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:7). Where is your anchor set?