

The Christian's Hope By Trey Sullins

Have you ever heard the saying “hope is for things you know you won’t get”? Although sometimes funny, such a saying really is not founded upon the truth. In fact, Webster’s Dictionary tells that hope is, “to desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment.” Beyond man’s definitions the greatest explanation of hope comes from God himself. In the context of salvation, the Bible shows hope is not wishing or desiring for something but waiting for something that you know will happen. First Peter 1:3-5 reveals to Christians why this hope is so sure and important for them to have in their lives.

The hope is living. First Peter 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” A living hope is something that is still active and viable, the opposite of lifelessness. The hope of God’s followers is living for several reasons. First, this hope is living because it is based upon the “living” word of God as Hebrews 4:12 explains. Second, the Christian’s hope comes after they are removed from the dead state of sin (Ephesians 2:1-2); therefore, after you have become a living Christian, you have a living Christian’s hope. Third, the hope that Christians have is assured by a “living God” (1 Timothy 3:15). The hope which God offers to His special creation is beyond anything that is available in the world. Christian’s need to have this living hope every day!

The hope is in an inheritance. First Peter 1:4 continues, “to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” The hope to which Peter is referring is a hope in the inheritance of a place in heaven that is awaiting the faithful followers of God. This hope is so great because it is “incorruptible” so that it will not decay. It is also “undefiled” which means that it cannot be dirtied or weakened. The hope “does not fade away” because it is “reserved in heaven.” Truly this hope in the inheritance is above any hope for these powerful qualities. Paul confirms this hope to Christians in Romans 8:38-39 which declares that nothing can separate Christians from the love of Christ. If nothing outside of individual choice can separate from Christ, then the hope of heaven is sure and should always motivate to proper service.

The hope is for those kept by the power of God. First Peter 1:5 exclaims, “who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” The word “kept” refers to guarding or protecting. The hope of heaven which God offers is only for those who are His. Although this might seem too exclusive, God has given every opportunity to serve Him. Romans 1:16 says, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation.” The Almighty has given man the tools and the knowledge to be able to become His people and obey Him properly. However, the choice is still in the hands of people to obey Him and have this wonderful hope.

The proper reaction that Christians ought to have to this hope is found in 1 Peter 1:6: “In this you greatly rejoice.” When God’s followers live a life of godliness in alignment with His word, then they know with certainty of the living hope in the inheritance of heaven. This knowledge in the hope from God should overshadow any problem and affliction life may bring. Furthermore, it

should encourage Christians to be the best that they can in their godly walks. Do you greatly rejoice in your hope?