

Hope

A life without hope, I believe most of us would agree, would be a very sad way to live. Of all people on earth, shouldn't Christians have the most hope filled lives? In this lesson we will explore what the Bible has to say about hope, as it pertains to the life of a Christian. Hope, for the purposes of this lesson, will be defined as, desire plus expectation. In other words, hope in this lesson is not referring to the wish fulfillment of unrealistic expectations.

Christianity is a life of hope

Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" and **Romans 15:13** "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." and **2 Corinthians 1:5-7** "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation." A faithful Christian like any human being will have good times and bad times in their lives, and will have the same emotional ups and downs that all other people have. However, a faithful Christian has a hope that should be able to help them make it through life's storms. Faithful Christians have the hope of Heaven to lift them up that other people do not have. Our difficult times, no matter how hard will pass. If we remain faithful our hope for a home in heaven will not pass. This hope, should make Christians be filled with joy and peace.

1 Corinthians 9:10 "Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope." If we lead the life that a Christian should, being about God's work, we will reap a reward in Heaven that can not be taken away from us.

1 Corinthians 15:19-20 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." and **Hebrews 6:17-19** "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;" If there was only this earthly life, and no life beyond it, than a hope for an eternal home in Heaven would be useless. If we had no life beyond this earthly life there would be no point in Christianity at all. However, because there is an eternal life after our earthly life, it makes the hope for Heaven infinitely important to us. Christ's sacrifice opened the door for Heaven for us that we can expect to walk through if we are faithful. It does not get more important than that.

1 Peter 1:18-23 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was

foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” A faithful Christians hopefulness is not based on the corruptible things of this world, but rather on the incorruptible Word of God. Faithful Christians can know their hope is based on the solid ground, that Christ’s sacrifice purchased an eternal home for all of His children. As long as a Christian is faithful this hope of salvation cannot be lost.

Definition and basic facts

Romans 8:21-25 “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” Hope is not a blind desire, that something we have no evidence for, will happen some magical day. Hope in salvation is based on the evidence God has given us in His Word. We know if we are obedient, we will be saved, not wishing to maybe be saved. Biblical hope of salvation is desire to want it to happen, plus knowing that salvation will happen, **IF** we are obedient. Said more simply by someone smarter than me, hope is desire plus expectation. A faithful Christian will be saved.

Galatians 5:1-6 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” A faithful Christians hope of salvation, is dependent upon their obedience to the New Testament Law of Christ. Hope and obedience go together. Hope with out obedience is useless. A faithful Christian is an obedient Christian. An obedient Christian can be full of hope for salvation, knowing that hope will be fulfilled. Without obedience to the Law of Christ there is no reason for hope.

Ephesians 4:4-7 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” It is important to note, just as there is, one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God, there is only one hope. There are not two or more paths to Heaven, there is only one. An obedient Christian has hope of eternal salvation. All who are not obedient Christians do not have the one hope, and sadly will be lost if they do not change.

Colossians 1:26-28 “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:” To have hope of glory, which is salvation, we must have Christ in us. Christ being in us, is obtained by faithful obedience to Christ’s New Testament Law. We don’t have Christ in us if we do not obey Him. This does not refer to an indwelling of the Spirit of God, it refers to obedience or disobedience to Him. Hope of glory comes through obedience to Christ and no other way.

1 Timothy 1:1 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;” Christ is our hope of salvation. Without Christ, there is no hope of salvation. However, through obedience to Christ all mankind has been given the ability to be saved, or reason for hope of salvation.

Hebrews 6:10-11 “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:” and **1 Peter 1:13-14** “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:” and **1 John 2:25** “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.” We have all been assured by God our hope of salvation will be fulfilled, if we are faithful to the end. If we are faithful to the end, we have no reason for fears or doubts about our salvation. A faithful Christian has hope for salvation and therefore, peace of mind.

What do Christians hope for?

Acts 23:6 “But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.” and **Acts 24:14-15** “But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” We can all hope for, or know, that when God deems the time right all the dead will be resurrected. This includes everyone that was just, as well as all that were unjust. All people good or bad will be resurrected, we can know it will happen. The question is, are we prepared for the resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:15-17 “Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.” We can know Christ was raised from the dead already. If Christ was not raised from the dead, we have no hope of our sins being washed away, the Bible is a lie, and we

are condemned eternally. However, because Christ did rise from the dead, we can be full of hope that our sins can be washed away, and we can have eternal salvation, if we are obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:” We can hope for, or know, that one day our bodies will be changed from what they are on this physical plane of existence, to something different for our eternal existence in the spiritual realm.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;” We can have hope in, or know, that Christ will come again and will punish all those that do not obey the gospel of Christ. If we don’t want to be eternally punished, we only have to be obedient to the gospel of Christ.

Titus 1:1-3 “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;” and **Titus 3:4-7** “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” We can hope in, or know, that through obedience to Jesus we can all obtain eternal salvation. All faithful Christians will have a Heavenly home. The promise of eternal salvation is never made to those that are not faithful to Christ.

Revelation 21:22-27 “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” We can hope in, or know, that Heaven is waiting for all that are in the Lamb’s book of life. Only faithful Christians will find that their names are in the book of life. All names not found in the book of life will miss Heaven. We all have the ability to have our names in that book, and can share in the hope of what that means. Will we do what we need to in order to be in the book of life?

Results of Christian hope

John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” and **Colossians 1:3-5** “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;” and **Hebrews 6:13-19** “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. 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;” A faithful child of God has hope for eternal salvation. This hope can provide faithful Christians with peace of mind, that they don't have to worry about what eternity holds for them. The unfaithful, do not have this same hope or peace of mind.

There is no hope for those without Christ

Ephesians 2:11-18 “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” Christ's sacrifice on the cross made everyone's salvation possible. However, only through obedience to Christ can we hope for a Heavenly home. If we choose not to obey Christ than we reject Him. If we reject Christ we have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” All faithful Christians living or dead have the

comfort of knowing a Heavenly home waits for us on Judgement Day. However, all that are not faithful to Christ have no hope and therefore, no comfort, and will be lost.

Conclusion

A faithful Christian has a hope in their lives that no other people do. Christians have the hope of a home in Heaven. All faithful Christians can know that when they pass from this life their eternal soul will spend eternity in Heaven with God. No difficulties or troubles in our earthly lives can cause a child of God, that remains faithful, to lose out on eternal salvation. That is a wonderful way to live.