

Our Blessed Hope

By Robert Garrett

(Presented at the 2017 Kentucky Indiana Fellowship.)

*"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of **Christ Jesus our hope**" 1Tim 1:1)*

Our HOPE is not just *in* Christ, but *is* Christ Himself. The word "hope" in the Bible, does not refer to some vague wish, but to a **confident expectation** of something (or someone) sure to come. It focuses especially on the promised return of Christ to complete His great work of redemption. In the Bible, the word hope stands for both :

- a. the **ACT OF HOPING**
*"Against all hope, Abraham in **hope** believed . . ." (Rom 4:18),*
and
- b. the **THING HOPED FOR,**
*"**the hope** that is stored up for you in heaven" (Col 1:5).*

Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that God has promised—things unseen and still in the future. *"Now faith is being **sure** of what we **hope** for and **certain** of what we do not see." (Heb 11:1-2).*

1. IT IS THE BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:11-14 *"For the **grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the **blessed hope**—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 .*

2. IT IS A LIVING HOPE:

1 Peter 1:3-5 *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth** into a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an **inheritance** that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."*

3. IT IS A SAVING HOPE, because Christ is our Savior.

Rom 8:22-24 *"we . . . who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 **For in this hope we were saved.**"*

1Thess 5:8 *"**the Hope of Salvation** as a helmet."*

Hebrews 9:27 *" . . . He will appear a second time . . . to bring **salvation** to those who are waiting for Him."*

4. IT IS A GLORIOUS HOPE: Because of the indwelling "**CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY**"

Col 1:27 *"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the **glorious riches** of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**"*

5. IT IS A JOYFUL HOPE,

Rom 5:1-4 *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, **hope.**"*

6. IT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

*"**And hope does not disappoint** us because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us." (Rom 5:5).*

7. It is a REASONABLE HOPE, not a blind hope. It is founded on solid evidence.

1Peter 3:15 *"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give **the reason for the hope** that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"*

8. It is a PURIFYING HOPE: This hope of the **imminent coming of Christ**, when at last "**we shall be like Him,**" is a **purifying hope.**

1John 3:2-3 *"Dear friends, now we are children of God, . . . But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this **hope** in him **purifies** himself, just as he is pure."*

9. It is a STABILIZING HOPE:

Heb 6:18-19 "God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the **hope** offered to us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have **this hope as an anchor** for the soul, **firm and secure.**"

10. It is a GOOD and ENCOURAGING HOPE

2Thess 2:16-17 "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal **encouragement** and **good hope**, 17 **encourage your hearts** and strengthen you in every good deed and word."

11. This HOPE Encourages Faith and Love

Colossians 1:5 "**the faith and love that spring from the hope** that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel."

12. It is OUR ONE HOPE

Eph 4:3-6 "There is **one body** and **one Spirit**— just as you were called to **ONE HOPE** when you were called— 5 **one Lord, one faith, one baptism**; 6 **one God and Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

That ONE HOPE is Jesus Christ Himself. The church is the bride of Christ. We love Him. We want to be with Him. Yes, He will bring many good things to give us, but those things are not to be desired separate from Christ. A woman should marry a man, not because he can give her an expensive house, but because she loves him for himself.

These rewards and good things that Christ has **promised** to us are **not separate from Christ**. They are like the spokes of a wheel. The hub is central, it holds the spokes. "**I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**" (John 14:3).

THE PROMISES

1. The Promise of a Mansion in Heaven

John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many **mansions**; I go to **prepare a place** for you. . . **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**" (NKJV).

2. The Promise of Glory

Romans 5:2 "We rejoice in the **Hope of the Glory of God**"

Colossians 1:27 "Christ in you, the **Hope of Glory.**"

Colossians 3:4 "**When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.**"

3. The Promise of Eternal Life

Titus 1:2 "a faith and knowledge resting on the **HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE**, which God, who does not lie, **promised before the beginning of time,**"

Titus 3:3-8 "At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures . . . 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having **the Hope of Eternal Life.** 8 This is a trustworthy saying . . . "

4. The Promise of Grace

1Peter 1:13 ". . . set your **HOPE fully on the GRACE TO BE GIVEN YOU when Jesus Christ is revealed.**"

5. The Promise of the redemption of our bodies, when WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM. WE WILL HAVE BODIES LIKE HIS GLORIOUS BODY.

Rom 8:23 "we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the **Redemption of our Bodies.**"

1John 3:2,3 ". . .when He appears, we **SHALL BE LIKE HIM**, . . . everyone who has this hope purifies himself. . ."

Philippians 3:20 ". . . we eagerly await a saviour . . . who . . . will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like **HIS GLORIOUS BODY.**"

6. The Promise of the Liberation of the Creation

Rom 8:18-25 ". . . 19 The **creation** waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the **creation** was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, **in hope** 21 that the **creation itself will be liberated** from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our

adoption as sons, the **redemption of our bodies**. 24 For in this **hope** we were saved. But **hope** that is seen is no **hope** at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we **hope** for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

7. The Promise to be Heirs of God and co-Heirs with Christ—when we shall share in His glory

Rom 8:16-17 "*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*"

8. The Promise to Inherit the Kingdom - James 2:5; Luke 13:32; Eph 5:5; Col 3:24; 1Pet 1:4; and others.

9. The Promise to sit with Christ on His Throne and to Rule the Nations with Him.

Rev 3:21 "*To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.*"

Rev 2:26-27 "*To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— 27 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'.*"

Read also all the other wonderful promises to the overcomer in Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

10. The Hope in the Resurrection OUT from among the dead.

Phil 3:11 “. . . *If by any means I might arrive at the goal namely, the out-resurrection from among those who are dead.*” (Weust literal Greek translation).

11. Because we have this Hope, we do not grieve as those who have no hope

1Thess 4:13-18 "*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope . 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. . "*

12. Therefore, According to vs 18, it is an Encouraging and Comforting hope:,

"Therefore, encourage each other with these words."—NIV. ("*comfort one another*" — KJV).

"Now FAITH is being sure of what we HOPE for and certain of what we do not see."

(Heb 11:1)

***"Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and
He will appear
a second time,
not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him."***

(Heb 9:28)

"CHRIST JESUS OUR HOPE"

(1 Tim 1:1)

*Robert Garrett is a missionary to Zimbabwe as were his parents.
When not in the field, he resides with his wife in Louisville, KY.*