

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXIV

August 18, 2024

No. 33

Our Hope

Jerry Fite

Jesus is not only our Lord and Savior, but He is our hope (*I Timothy 1:1*). As Christians, we submit ourselves under Jesus' authority, doing what He says (*Lk. 6:46, Matt. 7:21*). Therefore, He is our Lord. We are followers of Jesus because He died and was raised from the dead to save us from sin, offering us peace (*Acts 4:12, Titus 1:4*). Therefore, He is our Savior. Receiving grace and peace as the Lord's disciples, we have the hope of eternal life, looking beyond the grave (*Titus 3:7*) Therefore, He is our hope.

Hope is a feeling that desires certain things to happen. We can hope for a good grade, a better job, and a happy tomorrow. But if we do not prepare for the test, have no job experience, and are not in control of all circumstances, our hope can be no more than a wish. The hope of the Christian rises above all barriers and debilitating circumstances. It is a “living,” active hope founded upon the “resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” not a mere wish for a better day (*I Peter 1:3*).

Our Hope Unites Us

The Christian's hope is “one hope.” As there is “one Lord,

and “one faith,” there is also “one hope” (*Ephesians 4:4-5*). There is a unifying effect in “one.” Christians do not have to be divided by whom he or she serves, for they are united in one Lord. True believers are not divided in following various belief systems, for they can be united in the one faith of the Gospel (*cf. Galatians 1:8-9, 23*). The moment one is begotten again in Christ through baptism, he or she does not need to focus one's hope on anywhere but heaven. Christians are united in the truth of the Gospel that our “hope is in heaven” (*I Peter 1:4, Colossians 1:5*).

Our Hope Anchors Us

When we flee from the path and effects hurricanes, we plan and search for the surety of refuge. If our refuge is uncertain and unsafe, why flee? Jesus has entered heaven before us to secure our hope. The Hebrew writer declares we Christians “have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us which we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast...” (*Hebrews 6:18-19*). Our hope is anchored not only in Jesus, but in God who cannot lie. Paul, speaking of the hope of eternal life, adds, “...which God, who cannot lie, promised before

times eternal” (*Titus 1:2*). We learn from Scripture that the promise of salvation and eternity in heaven has been God's eternal purpose before time began. Salvation in Christ from sin and the grave was in the mind of God before man was created, and implemented when man sinned, (*Ephesians 1:4, Romans 8:23*).

The hope of heaven continued in God's mind when promising to bless Abraham and his seed, which includes Christ and the Christian (*Galatians 3:29*). God promised His blessing upon Abraham by swearing with an oath (*Genesis 22:16-17*). Two immutable things were in play (God's promise and God's oath) in which it is impossible for Him to lie. The immutable truth-telling- God therefore gives us “strong encouragement who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us...” (*Hebrews 6:18*).

Our Hope Refines Us

Hope saves us by refining our patience to the end (*Romans 8: 24-25*). Having hope to see Jesus in all His glory, also motivates us to keep ourselves pure (*I John 3:2-3*). Are you filled with uniting, anchoring, and refining hope?