



**GOD
GIVES
HOPE**

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Forward

In every age, there has been feeling of hopelessness in the hearts of many.

Many people, especially young people, are taking their lives or turning to drugs, or other things trying to make sense out of their existence.

Some do not want eternal life, as they see it as an extension of their present miserable life.

We of the church use language from the Bible or in church circles that makes little sense to those who were not raised to hear such a Dialogue.

It seems that many of the television ministries spend more time trying to get people to send them money, so that the deep love and longing to reach the lost seems to have been traded for fame and fortune.

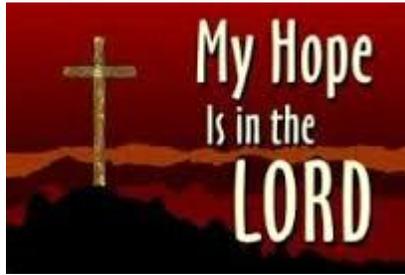
In this study, I have used many Scriptures from the word of God to try to instill an understanding of a true hope in Christ.

To find that hope, you may pray the Scriptures found in Roman 10:9-10

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”.

Please pray: Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the son of the living God. I accept you as my savior and honor you as Lord. Amen

Chapter 1



Hope gives confidence to things unknown

Romans 8:24-25

Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you already have something, you don't need to hope for it.

But if we look forward to something we don't have yet, we must wait patiently and confidently.

It is natural for children to trust their parents, even though parents sometimes fail to keep their promises.

Our heavenly Father, however, never makes promises he won't keep. Nevertheless, his plan may take more time than we expect.

Rather than acting like impatient children as we wait for God's will to unfold, we should place our confidence in God's goodness and wisdom.

In Romans, Paul presents the idea that salvation is past, present, and future.

It is past because we *were* saved the moment we believed in Jesus Christ as Savior (Romans 3:21-26; Romans 5:1-11; Romans 6:1-11, 22-23); our new life (eternal life) begins at that moment.

And it is present because we *are being* saved; this is the process of

sanctification (see the note on +Romans 6:1-8:39). But at the same time, we have not fully received all the benefits and blessings of salvation that will be ours when Christ's new kingdom is completely established.

That's our future salvation. While we can be confident of our salvation, we still look ahead with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life, when we will be like Christ (1 John 3:2).

Hebrews 11:1

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.

The book of Hebrews describes in detail how Jesus Christ not only fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, but how Jesus Christ is better than everything in the Jewish system of thought.

The Jews accepted the Old Testament, but most of them rejected Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah.

The recipients of this letter seem to have been Jewish Christians.

They were well versed in Scripture, and they had professed faith in Christ. Whether through doubt, persecution, or false teaching, however, they may have been in danger of giving up their Christian faith and returning to Judaism.

Nevertheless, the author of Hebrews evidently knew Paul well. Hebrews was probably written by one of Paul's close associates who often heard him preach.

God used many approaches to send his messages to people in Old Testament times.

He spoke to Isaiah in visions (Isaiah 6), to Jacob in a dream (Genesis 28:10-22), and to Abraham and Moses personally (Genesis 18; Exodus 31:18).

Jewish people familiar with these stories would not have found it hard to believe that God was still revealing his will, but it was astonishing for them to think that God had revealed *himself* by speaking through his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the fulfillment and culmination of God's revelation through the centuries.

When we know him, we have all we need to be saved from our sin and to have a perfect relationship with God.

Hebrews 11:7

It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before. By his faith he condemned the rest of the world and was made right in God's sight.

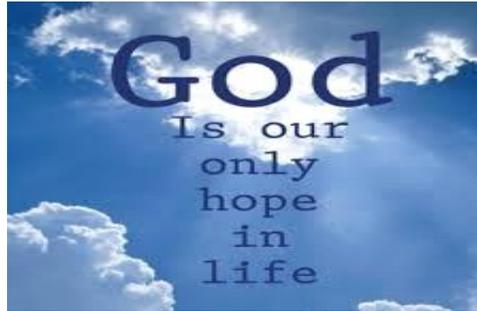
The righteous have hope.

Proverbs 23:18

For surely you have a future ahead of you; your hope will not be disappointed.

How easy it is to envy those who get ahead unhampered by Christian responsibility or God's laws. For a time they do seem to get ahead without paying any attention to what God wants. But to those who follow him, God promises a hope and a wonderful future even if we don't realize it in this life.

Chapter 2



The unbelievers haave no hope.

Lamentations 3:18

I cry out, "My splendor is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the Lord is lost!"

Job 7:6

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle flying back and forth. They end without hope.

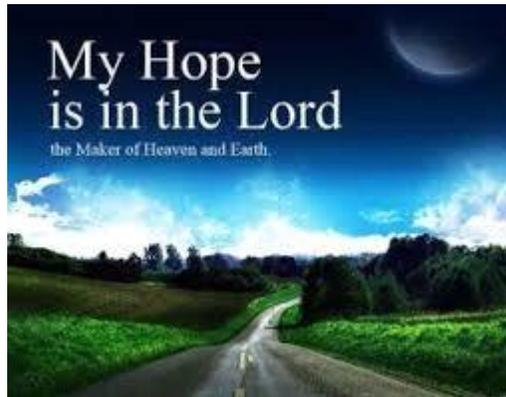
There is no hope in death for the unbeliever.

Isaiah 38:18

For the dead cannot praise you; they cannot raise their voices in praise. Those who go down to destruction can no longer hope in your faithfulness.

Hezekiah realized that his prayer brought deliverance and forgiveness. His words "the grave cannot praise you" may reveal that he was unaware of the blessedness of the future life for those who trust in God (Isaiah 57:1-2), or he may have meant that dead bodies cannot praise God. In either case, Hezekiah knew that God had spared his life, so in his poem Hezekiah praises God. Hezekiah recognized the good that came from his bitter experience. The next time you have difficult

struggles, pray for God's help to gain something beneficial from them.



There is hope for the righteous.

Job 17:15

The righteous who trust or put their hope in God will be helped.

Job was giving up hope of any future restoration of wealth and family and wrapping himself in thoughts of death and rest from grief and pain it promised. The rewards that Job's friends described were all related to this present life.

They were silent about the possibility of life after death.

We must not evaluate life only in terms of this present world because God promises a never-ending, wonderful future to those who are faithful to him.

Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength, my shield from every danger.

I trust in him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

The righteous will not be confounded, put to shame, or disappointed.

Isaiah 49:23

Kings and queens will serve you. They will care for all your needs. They will bow to the earth before you and lick the dust from your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord. Those who wait for me will never be put to shame."

The righteous, have this trustful hope in God

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

A leader who stirs us to move ahead, someone who believes we can do the task he has given and who will be with us all the way, encourages us all.

God is that kind of leader. He knows the future, and his plans for us are good and full of hope.

As long as God, who knows the future, provides our agenda and goes with us as we fulfill his mission, we can have boundless hope.

This does not mean that we will be spared pain, suffering, or hardship, but that God will see us through to a glorious conclusion.

The righteous are free from fear and anxiety.

Psalm 46:2-3

So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come and the mountains crumble into the sea.

Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

It seems impossible to consider the end of the world without becoming consumed by fear, but the Bible is clear—God is our refuge even in the face of total destruction. He is not merely a temporary retreat; he is our eternal refuge and can provide strength in any circumstance.

Chapter 3



Christ is found in the fulfillment of New Testament promises.

Matthew 12:21

His name will be the hope of all the world.

The people expected the Messiah to be a king. This quotation from Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 42:1-4) showed that the Messiah was indeed a king, but it illustrated what *kind* of king—a quiet, gentle ruler who brings justice to the nations.

Like the crowd in Jesus' day, we may want Christ to rule as a king and bring great and visible victories in our lives. But often Christ's work is quiet, and it happens according to *his* perfect timing, not ours.

1 Peter 1:3

All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.

The term *new birth* refers to spiritual birth (regeneration)—the Holy Spirit's act of bringing believers into God's family. Jesus used this concept of new birth when he explained salvation to Nicodemus (see John 3).

Do you need encouragement? Peter's words offer joy and hope in times of trouble, and he bases his confidence on what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We're called into a *living* hope of eternal life (1 Peter 1:3).

Our hope is not only for the future; eternal life begins when we trust Christ and join God's family.

No matter what pain or trial we face in this life, we know that it is not our final experience. Eventually we will live with Christ forever.

The presence of the promised Holy Spirit brings hope.

Romans 8:33-34

Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has given us right standing with himself.

Do you ever think that because you aren't good enough for God, he will not save you?

Do you ever feel as if salvation is for everyone else but you? Then these verses are especially for you.

If God gave his Son for you, he isn't going to hold back the gift of salvation!

If Christ gave his life for you, he isn't going to turn around and condemn you! He will not withhold anything you need to live for him. The book of Romans is more than a theological explanation of God's redeeming grace—it is a letter of comfort and confidence addressed to you.

Paul says that Jesus is interceding for us in heaven. God has acquitted us and has removed our sin and guilt, so it is Satan, not God, who accuses us. When he does, Jesus, the advocate for our defense, stands at God's right hand to present our case.

It is the future hope of the resurrection of the dead

Acts 23:6

Paul realized that some members of the high council were Sadducees and some were Pharisees, so he shouted, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were all my ancestors! And I am on trial because my hope is in the resurrection of the dead!"

The Sadducees and Pharisees were two groups of religious leaders, but with strikingly different beliefs.

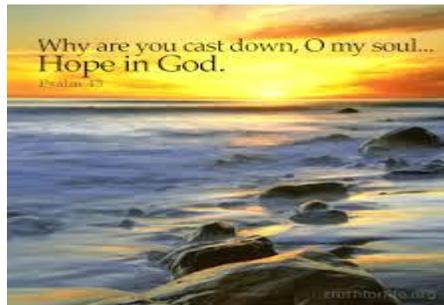
The Pharisees believed in a bodily resurrection, but the Sadducees did not.

The Sadducees adhered only to Genesis through Deuteronomy, which contain no explicit teaching on resurrection. Paul's words moved the debate away from himself and toward their festering controversy about the resurrection. The Jewish council was split.

Paul's sudden insight that the council was a mixture of Sadducees and Pharisees is an example of the power that Jesus promised to believers (Mark 13:9-11).

God will help us when we are under fire for our faith. Like Paul, we should always be ready to present our testimony. The Holy Spirit will give us power to speak boldly.

Chapter 4



Promises given to Israel brings hope.

Acts 26:6-7

Now I am on trial because I am looking forward to the fulfillment of God's promise made to our ancestors.

In fact, that is why the twelve tribes of Israel worship God night and day, and they share the same hope I have. Yet, O king, they say it is wrong for me to have this hope!

Redemption of the body and of the whole creation bring hope.

Romans 8:23-25

And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering.

We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you already have something, you don't need to hope for it.

But if we look forward to something we don't have yet, we must wait patiently and confidently.

We will be resurrected with bodies, glorified bodies like the body Christ now has in heaven (see 1 Cor. 15:25-58). We have the “First fruits”, the first installment or down payment of the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our resurrection life.

There is a hope of eternal glory.

Colosians 1:27

For it has pleased God to tell his people that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.

The false teachers in the Colossian church believed that spiritual perfection was a secret and hidden plan that only a few privileged people could discover. Their secret plan was meant to be exclusive. Paul said that he was proclaiming the word of God in its fullness, not just a part of the plan.

He also called God’s plan a “mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations,” not in the sense that only a few would understand, but because it was hidden until Christ came. Through Christ it was made open to all.

God’s secret plan is “Christ in you, the hope of glory” —God planned to have his Son, Jesus Christ, live in the hearts of all who believe in him— even Gentiles like the Colossians. Do you know Christ? He is not hidden if you will come to him.

There is hope of eternal life for the saints.

Titus 3:5-7

He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.

He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did.

He declared us not guilty because of his great kindness. And now we know that we will inherit eternal life.

Titus 3:3-8

Following a life of pleasure and giving in to every sensual desire leads to slavery.

Many think freedom consists in doing anything they want. But this path leads to a slavish addiction to sensual gratification.

A person is no longer free, but is a slave to what his or her body dictates (2 Peter 2:19). Christ frees us from the desires and control of sin. Have you been released?

Paul summarized what Christ does for us when he saves us. We move from a life full of sin to one where God's Holy Spirit leads us.

All our sins, not merely some, are washed away. Washing refers to the water of baptism, which is a sign of salvation. In becoming a Christian, the believer acknowledges Christ as Lord and recognizes Christ's saving work. We gain eternal life with *all* its treasures.

We have *renewal* by the Holy Spirit, and he continually renews our hearts. None of this occurs because we earned or deserved it; it is all

God's gift.

All three persons of the Trinity are mentioned in these verses because all three participate in the work of salvation.

Based upon the redemptive work of his Son, the Father forgives and sends the Holy Spirit to wash away our sins and continually renew us.

The promise of Christ return brings hope.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God, while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.

The power to live as a Christian comes from the Holy Spirit. Because Christ died and rescued us from sin, we are free from sin's control.

God gives us the power and understanding to live according to his will and to serve him. Then we will look forward to Christ's wonderful return with eager expectation and hope.

It is not enough to renounce sin and evil desires; we must also live actively for God. To fight against lust we must say no to temptation, but we must also say yes to active service for Christ.

Christ's redeeming us opens the way for him to purify us. *Redeem*

means to purchase our release from the captivity of sin with a ransom

Because of transformation into the likeness of Christ,

1 John 3:2-3

Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns.

But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.

And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

The Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Christ. This process will not be complete until we see Christ face to face (1 Cor. 13:12; Phil. 3:21), but knowing that it is our ultimate destiny should motivate us to purify ourselves.

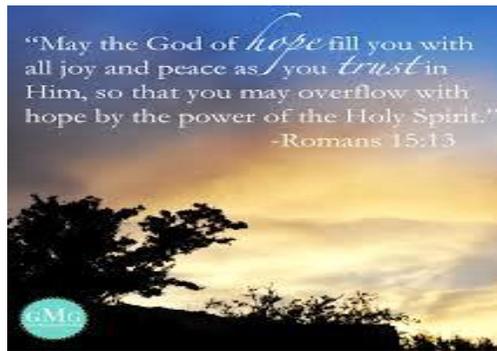
To purify means to keep morally straight, free from the corruption of sin. God also purifies us, but there is action we must take to remain morally fit (see 1 Tim. 5:22; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22).

Salvation from God brings hope.

1 Timothy 4:10

We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe the truth, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and particularly of those who believe.

Chapter 5



Christ himself brings hope.

1 Tim. 1:1

This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and by Christ Jesus our hope.

There is hope in the resurrection of Christ.

Acts 2:26

No wonder my heart is filled with joy, and my mouth shouts his praises! My body rests in hope.

Peter quoted from Psalm 16:8-11—a psalm written by David. He explained that David was not writing about himself, because David died and was buried (Acts 2:29).

Instead, he wrote as a prophet (Acts 2:30) who spoke of the Messiah who would be resurrected. The audience understood “decay” (Acts 2:27) to mean the grave. The emphasis here is that Jesus’ body was *not* left to decay but was in fact resurrected and glorified.

Endurance comes through suffering to bring hope.

Romans 5:2-5

Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to endure.

And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.

And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Paul states that, as believers, we now stand in a place of highest privilege (“this grace in which we now stand”).

Not only has God declared us not guilty; he has drawn us close to himself. Instead of being enemies, we have become his friends—in fact, his own children (John 15:15; Galatians 4:5).

As Paul states clearly in 1 Cor. 13:13, faith, hope, and love are at the heart of the Christian life. Our relationship with God begins with *faith*, which helps us realize that we are delivered from our past by Christ’s death.

Hope grows as we learn all that God has in mind for us; it gives us the promise of the future. And God’s *love* fills our lives and gives us the ability to reach out to others.

For first-century Christians, suffering was the rule rather than the exception. Paul tells us that in the future we will *become*, but until then we must *overcome*.

This means we will experience difficulties that help us grow.

We rejoice in suffering not because we like pain or deny its tragedy, but because we know God is using life's difficulties and Satan's attacks to build our character.

The problems that we run into will develop our perseverance—which in turn will strengthen our character, deepen our trust in God, and give us greater confidence about the future.

You probably find your patience tested in some way every day. Thank God for those opportunities to grow, and deal with them in his strength (see also James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7).

All three members of the Trinity are involved in salvation. The Father loved us so much that he sent his Son to bridge the gap between us (John 3:16).

The Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to fill our lives with love and to enable us to live by his power (Acts 1:8). With all this loving care, how can we do less than serve him completely!

We were weak and helpless because we could do nothing on our own to save ourselves. Someone had to come and rescue us.

Not only did Christ come at a good time in history; he came at exactly the right time—according to God's own schedule. God controls all history, and he controlled the timing, methods, and results of Jesus' death.

Chapter 6



Hope is the inspiration behind endurance.

1 Thessolans 1:3

As we talk to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and your continual anticipation of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Thessalonians had stood firm when they were persecuted (1 Thess. 1:6; 1 Thess. 3:1-4, 7-8).

Paul commended these young Christians for their work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired by hope.

These characteristics are the marks of effective Christians in any age.

Hebrews 11:6

So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Believing that God exists is only the beginning; even the demons believe that much (James 2:19-20). God will not settle for mere acknowledgment of his existence.

He wants a personal, dynamic relationship with you that will transform your life. Those who seek God will find that they are rewarded with his intimate presence.

Sometimes we wonder about the fate of those who haven't heard of Christ and have not even had a Bible to read.

God assures us that all who honestly seek him—who act in faith on the knowledge of God that they possess—will be rewarded. When you tell others the gospel, encourage them to be honest and diligent in their search for truth.

Those who hear the gospel are responsible for what they have heard (see 2 Cor. 6:1-2).

**All those who hope in Christ will see Christ exalted in life
And in death**

Philipians 1:20

For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that causes me shame, but that I will always be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past, and that my life will always honor Christ, whether I live or I die.

Hope come through trustworthy promises from God

Hebrews 6:18-19

So God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie.

Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage,

for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.

This confidence is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary.

These two unchangeable things are God's nature and his promise. God embodies all truth; therefore, he cannot lie. Because God is truth, you can be secure in his promises; you don't need to wonder if he will change his plans.

Our hope is secure and immovable, anchored in God, just as a ship anchor holds firmly to the seabed.

To the true seeker who comes to God in belief, God gives an unconditional promise of acceptance.

When you ask God with openness, honesty, and sincerity to save you from your sins, *he will do it*. This truth should give you encouragement, assurance, and confidence.

This curtain hung across the entrance from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place, the two innermost rooms of the temple.

This curtain prevented anyone from entering, gazing into, or even getting a fleeting glimpse of the interior of the Most Holy Place (see also Hebrews 9:1-8).

The high priest could enter there only once a year to stand before God's presence and atone for the sins of the entire nation. But Christ is in God's presence at all times, not just once a year, as the high priest who can continually intercede for us.

We may boast in this hope

Hebrews 3:6

But Christ, the faithful Son, was in charge of the entire household. And we are God's household, if we keep up our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.

Because Christ lives in us as believers, we can remain courageous and hopeful to the end. Being steadfast and firm in our faith does not save us, but our courage and hope do reveal that our faith is real.

Without this enduring faithfulness, we could easily be blown away by the winds of temptation, false teaching, or persecution. (See also Hebrews 3:14.)

Hope causes us to exhibit great boldness in our faith

2 Cor. 3:12

Since this new covenant gives us such confidence, we can be very bold.

Paul contrasts the glory of the Ten Commandments with the glory of the life-giving Spirit. If the law that leads to death, was glorious, how much more glorious is God's plan to give us life through his Spirit! The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is far superior to the Old Testament system.

Christianity is superior to the Judaism of the Old Testament, which was the highest form of religion on earth, it will surely be superior to any other religion we may come across.

Because God's plan is wonderful by comparison to any other, we dare not reject it or treat it casually.

Chapter 7



Those who do not trust in God are without hope.

Ephes. 2:12

In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

Jews and Gentiles alike could be guilty of spiritual pride—Jews for thinking their faith and traditions elevated them above everyone else, Gentiles for trusting in their achievements, power, or position.

Spiritual pride blinds us to our own faults and magnifies the faults of others. Be careful not to become proud of your salvation.

Instead, humbly thank God for what he has done, and encourage others who might be struggling in their faith.

Before Christ's coming, Gentiles and Jews kept apart from one another. Jews considered Gentiles beyond God's saving power and therefore without hope.

Gentiles resented Jewish claims. Christ revealed the total sinfulness of both Jews and Gentiles, and then he offered his salvation to both. Only Christ breaks down the walls of prejudice, reconciles all believers

to God, and unifies us in one body.

1 Thess. 4:13

And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope.

The Thessalonians were wondering why many of their fellow believers had fallen asleep (died) and what would happen to them when Christ returned.

Paul wanted the Thessalonians to understand that death is not the end of the story. When Christ returns, all believers—dead and alive—will be reunited, never to suffer or die again.

Hope is an enduring virtue of the Christian life

1 Cor. 3:13

But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done.

Everyone's work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value.

In the church built on Jesus Christ, each church member would be mature, spiritually sensitive, and doctrinally sound.

However, the Corinthian church was filled with those whose work was “wood, hay, straw,” members who were immature, insensitive to one another, and vulnerable to wrong doctrine (1 Cor. 3:1-4).

No wonder they had so many problems. Local church members should be deeply committed to Christ. Can your Christian character stand the test?

Two sure ways to destroy a building are to tamper with the foundation and to build with inferior materials.

The church must be built on Christ, not on any other person or principle. Christ will evaluate each minister's contribution to the life of the church, and the Day of Judgment ("the Day") will reveal the sincerity of each person's work.

God will determine whether or not they have been faithful to Jesus' instructions. Good work will be rewarded; unfaithful or inferior work will be discounted.

The builder "will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames" means that unfaithful workers will be saved, but like people escaping from a burning building.

All their possessions (accomplishments) will be lost.

Chapter 8



Love springs from hope.

Col. 1:4-5

For we have heard that you trust in Christ Jesus and that you love all of God's people.

You do this because you are looking forward to the joys of heaven—as you have been ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

Throughout this letter Paul combats a heresy similar to *Gnosticism*.

Gnostics believed that it took special knowledge to be accepted by God; for them, even for those who claimed to be Christians, Christ alone was not the way of salvation (Col. 1:20).

In his introductory comments, therefore, Paul commended the Colossians for their faith, love, and hope—three main emphases of Christianity (1 Cor. 13:13).

He deliberately omitted the word *knowledge* because of the “special knowledge” aspect of the heresy. It is not *what* we know that brings salvation, but *whom* we know. Knowing Christ is knowing God.

When Paul says that our hope is stored up in heaven, he is emphasizing the security of the believer. Because we know that our future destination and salvation are sure, we are free to live for Christ and love others (1 Peter 1:3-4).

When you find yourself doubting or wavering in your faith or love, remember your destination—heaven.

**Hope produces joy and peace in believers through
The power of the Spirit.**

Romans 12:12

Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful.

Christian hospitality differs from social entertaining. Entertaining focuses on the host—the home must be spotless; the food must be well prepared and abundant; the host must appear relaxed and good-natured.

Hospitality, by contrast, focuses on the guests. Their needs—whether for a place to stay, nourishing food, a listening ear, or acceptance—are the primary concern.

Hospitality can happen in a messy home. It can happen around a dinner table where the main dish is canned soup.

It can even happen while the host and the guest are doing chores together. Don't hesitate to offer hospitality just because you are too tired, too busy, or not wealthy enough to entertain.

Romans 15:13

So I pray that God, who gives you hope, will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy spirit.

Chapter 9



Paul attributes his apostolic calling to the hope of eternal glory.

Titus 1:1-2

This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to bring faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives.

This truth gives them the confidence of eternal life, which God promised them before the world began—and he cannot lie.

Paul wrote this letter between his first and second imprisonments in Rome (before he wrote 2 Timothy) to guide Titus in working with the churches on the island of Crete. Paul had visited Crete with Titus and had left him there to minister (Titus 1:5). There was a strong pagan influence on this small island because Crete may have been a training center for Roman soldiers. Therefore, the church in Crete needed strong Christian leadership.

In one short phrase, Paul gives us insight into his reason for living. He calls himself a servant of God—that is, one who was committed to obeying God. This obedience led him to spend his life telling others about Christ.

How would you describe your purpose in life? To what are you devoted?

Paul called himself “an apostle.” Even though Paul was not one of the original 12, he was specially called by God to bring the Good News to the Gentiles (see Acts 9:1-16 for an account of his call).

The word *apostle* means messenger or missionary. “God’s elect” refers to God’s choice of his people, the church.

Apparently lying was commonplace in Crete (Titus 1:12). Paul made it clear at the start that God does not lie.

The foundation of our faith is trust in God’s character. Because God *is* truth, he is the *source* of all truth, and he cannot lie.

Believing in him leads to *godliness*, living a God-honoring life-style (Titus 1:1). The eternal life that God has promised will be ours, because he keeps his promises.

Build your faith on the foundation of a trustworthy God who never lies.

Hope in the return of Christ is the basis for believers to purify themselves in this life.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures.

We should live in this evil world with self-control, right conduct, and devotion to God, while we look forward to that wonderful event when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.

1 John 3:3

And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

The Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Christ (see Romans 8:29).

This process will not be complete until we see Christ face to face (1 Cor. 13:12; Phil. 3:21), but knowing that it is our ultimate destiny should motivate us to purify ourselves.

To purify means to keep morally straight, free from the corruption of sin. God also purifies us, but there is action we must take to remain morally fit (see 1 Tim. 5:22; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22).

What is your hope? Allow your hope lead you into a true relationship with Christ. He loves you and will forever seek fellowship with you.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.

Additional comments and charts are taken from:

***Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print**

