

Hope

I. Introduction

A. Among the blessings God offers that must be pursued is the blessing of *hope*. Consider some things Scripture teaches about what *produces* hope, and what hope does for the faithful Christian. **1 Peter 1:3-4**

II. Hope Involves *Desire*

A. The object of biblical hope is heaven. Hope involves fervently *desiring* heaven. **1 Peter 1:4**

B. We should *look forward to and earnestly desire* the coming of the Day of Judgment, when the righteous of all ages will be gathered together in heaven for eternity. **2 Peter 3:11-13**

C. One who is spiritually-minded will look forward to heaven more than anything. While temporal circumstances are uncertain, those whose “citizenship is in heaven” have something far deeper to look forward to than material gain or earthly accomplishments. The opportunity to be in God’s direct presence for *eternity* in a place free from sin far outweighs anything the world can offer. **Philippians 3:20**

D. Eagerly looking forward to heaven allows for the deep sense of hope described in Scripture. *Hymns for Worship, Song 254*

III. Hope Involves *Expectation*

A. Biblical hope also involves a confident *expectation*. Faith gives one an *assurance* of things hoped for (**Heb. 11:1**). It is an assurance that the Day of Judgment *will* come, and that the faithful will enjoy heaven as a reality. This confident expectation is grounded in God’s faithfulness and in the resurrection of His Son. **1 Peter 1:3**

B. Jesus was the first to be raised never to die again. Because *He* was raised, we can trust that the righteous will be raised to eternal life *with* Him. **1 Corinthians 15:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:14**

IV. Hope is the *Anchor of the Soul*

A. This hope of eternal life serves as a sure, steadfast anchor of the soul for the faithful Christian. **Hebrews 6:19; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 1:6-7**

V. Conclusion

A. May each of us prepare for the Day of Judgment, and thus be able to spend eternity in heaven. May we *lay up treasure* in heaven, eagerly looking forward to the Day on which hope will be fully realized. May we trust God’s promises, and allow the hope He offers to anchor our souls.