

Hope is a desire of some good with expectation of obtaining it, as yet only an expectation, not an actuality. Hope is something not yet seen, but a confident assurance that, in the future, it will be evidenced.

Romans 8:24 and 25

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*.

Today the word “hope” carries a connotation almost opposite to God’s rightly-divided Word. Hope is used when obtaining something in the future is uncertain. When people do not know what is going to happen, they say, “I hope so.” This uncertain, wishy-washy attitude would be more accurately stated “hopelessness,” or “wishing.”

The believers’ ultimate Hope is the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This event is absolutely

going to happen, regardless of any man’s attitude. He is coming back because God Almighty planned it to be and said so. Therefore, our Hope is absolutely certain and guaranteed by God. For the believer, the question is never “if,” but rather “when?” We know that we know he is coming back! Our Hope is not a wish, but a guarantee of the Father in light of which we live.

During the summer, our family is blessed to participate in Family Camp at Lake George. This is a great time for our entire family that we all fondly anticipate. Many arrangements have to be made in advance for this week long vacation. We must begin saving months ahead of the deadline to accumulate the necessary funds. Plans must be made to cover work responsibilities. Arrangements must be made for Spot, our dog. Our home has to be prepared, refrigerator cleaned out, etc., and arrangements made for it to be watched over. Clothes shopping beforehand is of concern for some family members. (We must have the proper attire when we meet our other teenage friends!) As the event draws near,

priorities in life are arranged to facilitate departure. The point is — our lives are altered by the hope of one week at Family Camp. How much more should it be altered by the Hope of our departure when Christ returns!

Faith in the Hope has always served as a Pole Star for the spiritually minded. Abraham conducted his life (where he lived, what he did, with whom he associated, etc.) based on his conviction of the Hope.

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

He lived in a tent because he had faith in the Hope God told him was to come. Moses also made challenging decisions based on his conviction regarding Hope.

Verses 24-26

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Some of our believing forefathers were tortured and did not accept deliverance because they refused to compromise in their lives in light of the resurrection.

Verse 35

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

King David conducted his life based on the Hope. His heart rejoiced, being fully persuaded that God's promised Hope would come to pass.

Acts 2:25-28

For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Few men have suffered the persecution the Apostle Paul endured or served as he did.

II Corinthians 11:23-28

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

In journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

In chapter 12, he describes the pictures God showed him of the glory to come. In view of this glory, he was able to endure and rejoice.

Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Hope of glory? Do you believe he is coming back to gather you together with him in glory forever? If you do, are you living your life accordingly? What changes would you make if you knew Jesus Christ was coming back in 1998? Since no one knows the specific time, perhaps it would be wise to make these changes now because **he is coming back!**