

Monday, April 6, 2020 - For What Do We Hope?

The world is full of fear, doubt and despair. All day, every day we are bombarded with scenarios, and realities, of doom, gloom, pain and death with slim to no hope of relief in sight.

No wonder people are depressed, angry, scared and/or despondent.

Are you a Christian? If you are, can I submit to you that there is always reason for **HOPE** regardless the situations we find in the world?

Let's start with a fact.

Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed for men to die once...

Fact: all mankind will die. If the writer stops there, then certainly no one would or should have any hope because there would be NOTHING to look forward to after this life. Certainly, I would desire to hold on to this life, and the things I possess within it, for as long as possible. Situations or circumstances, outside of my control, that could possibly end that, such as our present pandemic, would justify all the emotions we listed in the start of this article.

But the writer does **NOT** stop there.

Hebrews 9 :27b - ...but after this the judgment.

Christians live in **HOPE** of the judgment! Why do we live in that hope?

Hebrews 9:28 - So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, ***for salvation.***

Man dies just once and after this the judgment. This is sure and certain. Jesus died once for the sins of all mankind. Christ died once for man's sin. Jesus is coming a second time not to die for sins, but to take the redeemed to heaven where he has mansions prepared (**John 14:1-3**). Those who have availed themselves of the benefits of Christ's death upon the cross by believing in him and being baptized for the remission of their sins are waiting for his Second Coming so that they can receive eternal salvation in the fullest sense.

The Second Coming of Christ will be visible to everyone on planet Earth. "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be" (**Matthew 24:27**, NASB).

Christians were saved in hope of the resurrection of their body from the dead. Hope is faith looking to the future. For the believer who has placed his faith in Christ's atoning work on the cross, it will be a time of great rejoicing. The dead in Christ, and those alive at His coming, will receive an immortal and incorruptible body.

Christians are to be eagerly watching and waiting for the return of the Savior. Until our death, or the Lord's return, His servants should be busy with the Lord's work, using their time, talents, and resources for the sake of the Kingdom, not worrying about those things around us.

We also should be boldly sharing our faith, our hope with those who still live in spiritual darkness and death, telling them of the great joy of eternity with Christ and the great horror of eternity apart from Christ.

Hope defeats fear, anxiety, worry, helplessness. Our hope comes from the Lord!

Psalm 146:5 - Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Psalm 25:5 - Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 31:24 - Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 42:11 - Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

1 Peter 1:3-6 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christians don't despair, rather pray "Lord come quickly!"