

Reference: HEB 12:1-3
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The Hope of Glory

Purpose: To meditate on the glorious hope of the believer; to urge saints to live in the light of it and unbelievers to understand they have no hope.

1. Introduction

When did you last meditate on your hope in Christ?

When did you think about the future – the age to come?

Too heavenly minded, no earthly use?

Actually, the opposite is true

The Bible commends to us the contemplation of heaven

Talks a lot about the believer's hope

Indicates it is critical, vital, essential to life as a believer here

To have a clear understanding of this hope

If we are not heavenly-minded enough

We will be of little earthly use to our Lord

That is our theme for this morning – the believer's hope

Or as it is sometimes called, "the hope of glory"

We want to see first of all what this hope is

Second – what God has promised concerning our future

Third, the value this hope in the believer's life

Finally, what is the situation for the unbeliever

2. Believer, what is your hope?

In simple terms,

Your hope is God's making good on all His promises to you

Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Here is hope – God will perfect His work in the believer

This hope is grounded in the character of God

He has revealed Himself to you as a God who does not change

As a God of everlasting love who sent His Son to the cross to redeem His people from their sins

As a God with infinite power to bring His good purposes to pass.

He saved you and has kept all His promises to you since then

And He has given you every reason to be confident for the future

With a confidence grounded solely on Him:

Hebrews 6:16 For men swear by one greater *than themselves*, and with them an oath *given* as confirmation is an end of every dispute. **17** In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, **18** so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

I hope you can see this hope is no weak idea, as in the world;
 "I hope it's not too hot tomorrow"

You hope for things promised to you and sworn to you by God Almighty, your Heavenly Father!

And there can be no doubt that He will keep His promises!

1) They have been secured by Christ Himself

2 Corinthians 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him [Christ] they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

2) They are guaranteed to you by the downpayment of the Holy Spirit whom you received at conversion

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Can anything be more certain in all creation than this?

All God's promises to you will be fully and infallibly kept!

THAT is your confidence!

ALL God's promises to you in Christ will be kept without fail

THAT is the Christian hope!

3. Believer, what has God promised you?

Our Second Point - If your hope is the fulfilment of God's promises to you, what is it that He has promised?

Very many things – we will look at just a few

3.1. You have been promised rest

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

There is a promise of entering God's rest – glory

Rest from sin and from the burden of unworthiness

Rest from this world's philosophies of life

Note that your rest is in Jesus – we come to Him to receive it

"Come to me", says Jesus, "and You will find rest for your soul"

3.2. You have been promised a kingdom

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

Do you love Him? Then you are promised a kingdom!

You have been made a citizen of heaven

And note that you are a subject of the glorious King of Kings

You will sit with Him on His throne!

3.3. You are promised new heavens, new earth

2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

And Jesus is "The Lord, Our Righteousness"

3.4. You are promised an eternal inheritance

Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Have you been called by Him? Then you are promised an eternal inheritance! It shall never perish, spoil or fade, says Peter

Ready to be revealed in the last time

And kept in heaven for you if you are a believer!

And Who is your Co-heir? Christ Jesus!

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

3.5. You are promised eternal life!

2 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

And eternal life is to know the One true God

And Jesus, Whom He sent

3.6. Christ is central to you hope

From all these verses, see Christ as the center of your hopes

But we have more:

3.6.1. The hope of beholding His glory

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

3.6.2. The hope of being fully joined to Him

Revelation 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." **8** It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

3.6.3. The hope of being made like Him

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

So some Scriptures refer to Christ Himself as our Hope

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope.

From our meditation:

Colossians 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, **27** to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

He will be all your vision

His glory is the glory for which you hope

*The bride eyes not her garment, But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory, But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth, But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory Of Emmanuel's land.*

To see His beauty will be your all-surpassing joy

To praise Him your everlasting delight!

Peter - "precious and magnificent promises!" No wonder!

4. How should this affect your living now?

Scripture is clear that a proper understanding of your hope

An eager anticipation of it

A deep reflection and meditation upon it
 Will profoundly affect the way you live on earth
 This is not just pie in the sky when you die!
 It should make a difference NOW – how will it do that?

4.1. You will purify yourself

Many versus emphasize the connection between our hope and our holiness – here is one example:

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. **3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

Would you marry Him in a sullied robe? No!
 Holding on to the sins that would have banished you to Hell?
 Having no fruit to lay before Him from your life here below?
 If you have this hope, it will help in sanctifying you!

4.2. You will live as strangers and pilgrims here

Hebrews 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. **15** And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Get a right understanding of your hope in heaven
 Of Christ and all His glory which awaits you
 Then this world will have no attractions
 To be with Him there is better by far
 That is your homeland; you are temporarily absent from it here
 This world's grip on you is loosened

4.3. You will endure persecution

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Here is our text.

Like those who have gone before you,
 Those who lived as strangers and pilgrims on earth
 You look for something better – something heavenly
 Christ endured the cross because of the joy set before Him
 Which in part was His impending union with you!
 As you set your eyes on Him and the hope of that union
 Then you can endure persecution too
 What is the worst that men can do to you?
 They can kill the body – nothing more!
 But then they will only have hurried you to your hope, reward
 If God is for us, who can be against us?

4.4. You will be armed for warfare

1 Thessalonians 5:8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and **as a helmet, the hope of salvation.**

This hope defends our minds
 Keeps you thinking on things above, where Christ is
 Pure and holy thoughts – not giving your minds to sin
 Here is a great benefit of heavenly-mindedness!

4.5. You will be secure

Hebrews 6:19 **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,** **20** where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us.....

You will be unmovable
 Not prone to wander off after other things or drift away
 Firmly grounded – Christ is there and He will not let you go!

4.6. You will preach this Gospel boldly!

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a **defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,** yet with gentleness and reverence;

You will defend the Truth
 Gossip the Gospel that has brought you such a hope!
 Like the early church, who could not help themselves

4.7. You will wait eagerly

Romans 8:24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? **25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

How you should long for heaven!

How you should hold loosely to this world!

How you should avoid that which increases attachments here

Are you eager for heaven?

Or are you at home in the world and thinking little on your hope?

5. Unbelievers have no hope; no Christ

Lastly, the situation of the Unbeliever is bleak indeed

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which* is performed in the flesh by human hands— **12 remember** that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

No hope

Just a certain expectation of judgment and of condemnation

No Christ. No God. No glory.

The promise of entering the rest still stands

Today is the day of salvation – why will you die?

What do you have here that is worth it?

Come to Christ now

6. Conclusions

Christ Himself is your Hope, He is your all in all

Your Rest, your King, your Righteousness, your Life, your

Husband, your great and glorious Hope

Fix your eyes on Him! He is the end of our journey

This knowledge is critical for us to live for Him on earth:

Having this Hope,

You are to purify yourselves, Hold loosely to this world

Endure persecution, Are armed for our warfare

Are kept securely, Tell others, Wait eagerly

May God help us all to do so!

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*