

- The Church at Study - A Study on Hope

The word "hope" is often associated with a person's expectation of God's salvation. In the Old Testament, God was the object of the righteous. They waited for His salvation. Many of the Old Testament saints also hoped for the final deliverer (Messiah), who would establish His kingdom on earth. We, (the church), look (or hope) for Him, also. He is the risen One: the "first-born" from the dead, and our hope is that we will (like He did) rise; and we will meet the Lord in the air. Hope, in large part (for the church) has to do with our trust that God will one day physically deliver the righteous from earth to heaven. Our hope is an **anchor of the soul**, IT SHOULD NOT WAVER. In other words, there is nothing that can keep us from our belief in our final deliverance from the world, evil, and demonic influences. Our hope is in Christ who has already entered into the heavenly veil. Although we live on earth, our unwavering hope is in the veil, as well (Heb. 6:19). Faith wavers; our hope in the person of Jesus Christ, His existence, and our one day being with Him should never fail! We may become weak in our faith, but not in the Person, Jesus Christ. It is possible to be little in faith, but still have hope in the eternal One. The apostle Peter wavered in his FAITH during his denial of Christ. Although he claimed he never knew Christ, his hope in Him never diminished. Only at the death of Christ did Peter and the other disciples lose all HOPE. and that was renewed when the disciples saw the risen Christ. Our hope enters into the heavenly veil where we wait for a final deliverance! It is a hope in a final deliverance or resurrection. New Testament scriptures are mainly used below, to attempt to define the word hope. The object of hope in a number of the scriptures below refer to either God the Father, or the Lord Jesus Christ. Hope, therefore, is often in expectation of the Person, Jesus, who God has made both Lord and Christ (Messiah). Hope, in large part, speaks of something more eternal than faith. This means, for example, that the word "hope" is rarely defined as someone believing that God will heal them of a physical condition. Faith is a word better used for our belief in healings and believing God for temporal blessings.

Some misunderstand 1 Peter 3:15. We do not try to fulfill the scripture by attempting to "give an answer" to every man concerning the meaning of every passage from scriptures. That is impossible! We are to give an answer to every man that asks concerning the HOPE we have. The hope in this scripture refers to the HOPE OF A FINAL RESURRECTION. We are to share with the unsaved the reason why we live the way we live in a dark world. It is our expectancy of one day seeing our Saviour.

Key Words	Scripture
Resurrection	Act 23:6. I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the HOPE and resurrection of the dead I am called in question
	Acts 24:15. And have HOPE toward God...that there shall be a resurrection of the dead.
	Rom. 5:2. We...rejoice in HOPE of the glory of God.
	1 Thes. 4:13. But I would not have you ignorant...concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no HOPE.
Eternal hope in Christ	1 Cor. 15:19. If in this life only we have HOPE in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
	Titus 2:13. Looking for that blessed HOPE..and...the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Heaven	Col. 1:5. For the HOPE which is laid up for you in heaven.
	1 Thes. 2:19. for what is our HOPE, or joy...are not you in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?
	Heb. 6:18-19. We...have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the HOPE set...before us. Which HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul...and which entereth into that within the veil.
	1 Pet. 1:3. Begotten again unto a lively HOPE by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
	1 Pet. 3:15. Be ready always to give an answer [for] the HOPE...
Eternal Life	1 Thes. 5:8. But let us...put on...the HOPE of salvation.
	Titus 3:7. We should be made heirs according to the HOPE of eternal life.
	Rom. 12:12. Rejoicing in HOPE; patient in tribulation; instant in prayer.

Death	<u>Job. 27:8.</u> what is the HOPE of the hypocrite...when God takes his soul?
	<u>Prov. 14:32.</u> The wicked is driven away in his wickedness...but the righteous hath HOPE in his death
	<u>Acts 2:26.</u> My tongue was glad...my flesh shall rest in HOPE.
Maturity	<u>Rom. 5:4.</u> And tribulation, and patience, experience, and experience, HOPE.
Without hope of salvation	<u>Eph. 2:12.</u> You were without Christ...having no HOPE and without God in the world.
	<u>I Thes. 4:13.</u> That you sorrow not, even as others which have no HOPE.