

HEAVENLY HOPE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Hope is “desire plus expectation”
2. Some things one may desire, but never expect to receive; some things one may expect but not desire.
3. A person without hope in this physical world is a sad, suffering, dejected, most miserable creature.
4. But a person without hope in the world to come is in much more dire circumstances, and often times unaware of it, 1Th.4:13; Heb.10:28-31; Mt.25:46; Jno.5:28,29; 2Th.1:67-10.
5. However, there is no need for anyone to be without hope in the world to come. Thus we speak of the **HEAVENLY HOPE** which is available to one and all.
6. This is a real hope, a genuine hope, which if one has it, he both desires it and expects to receive it.
7. Our discussion of the **HEAVENLY HOPE** is as follows:

II. DISCUSSION

A. **THE BIBLE SAYS THERE IS BUT ONE HEAVENLY HOPE.**

1. Eph.4:4: “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling.”
2. There can be only one hope because God has called us with only one purpose in view, namely, the hope of life eternal beyond this age, which hope is the result of being called of God by the gospel, 2Th.2:13,14; cf. Rom.8:16-18; 2Cor.4:14-18.

B. **THIS HOPE CONCERNS THE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE.**

1. Tit.1:2: “In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began (times eternal, ASV).”
2. It is not just “eternal existence,” but eternal life. There is a difference. See Jno.5:28,29; Mt.25:46.
3. Those in hell have eternal existence, but not eternal life. Cf. Rom.2:6-9; 2Th.1:6-10.

C. **THIS HOPE WAS PLANNED BY GOD BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.**

1. 2Tim.1:8,9: “Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God; who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (before times eternal, ASV).”

2. Eph.1:4: “According (even, ASV) as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love.”
3. Notice the expressions:
 - a. “which was given us **in** Christ Jesus” in 2Tim.1:9.
 - b. “hath chosen us **in** him” in Eph.1:4.
 - c. This hope is realized only **in** Christ, not out of Christ. Cf. Eph.1:3,11; 3:11.
 - d. It was made possible **in** Christ and **through** the suffering of Christ on the cross, Eph.1:4; 2Tim.1:9; Heb.5:8,9.

D. THIS HOPE WAS AND IS BROUGHT TO LIGHT THROUGH OR REVEALED IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

1. 2Tim.1:10: “But hath now been manifested by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
2. Col.1:5: “Because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”

E. THIS HOPE IS LAID UP FOR YOU IN HEAVEN, OR RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU.

1. Col.1:5: “For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof you have heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”
2. 1Pet.1:3-5.
3. It is not laid up here on this earth for anyone, as some claim.
4. After the 2nd Coming of Jesus, this earth will be no more, 2Pet.3:9ff.

F. IT IS A PROMISED POSSESSION, NOT A PRESENT POSSESSION. OR IT IS A FUTURE POSSESSION, HELD NOW IN PROMISE AND PROSPECT.

1. 1Jno.2:25.
2. Rom.8:24,25.
3. Mk.10:28-30.

G. IT IS THE INHERITANCE AWAITING GOD’S FAITHFUL CHILDREN.

1. 1Pet.1:3-5,9.
2. Mt.7:21-23.
3. 2Tim.4:6-8.
4. Tit.3:4-7.

H. THIS HOPE IS TO BE EARNESTLY AND PATIENTLY LOOKED FOR.

1. Tit.2:11-13.
2. 2Pet.3:12-14.

3. Rom.8:24,25.

I. THIS HOPE IS A HELMET IN THE BATTLE FOR LIFE ETERNAL.

1. 1Th.5:8.

2. Eph.6:10-17.

J. THIS HOPE IS AN ANCHOR TO THE SOUL, Heb.6:17-20.

K. THIS HOPE HELPS THE CHRISTIAN ENDURE SUFFERING AND HARDSHIPS AND PRESS ON IN FAITHFULNESS, Rom.8:16-25; Cf. 2Cor.4:17.

III. CONCLUSION

1. With this hope firmly established upon genuine faith, we patiently wait for the final redemption, Rom.8:24,25; Cf. Heb.11:8-16; 2Tim.1:12; 4:6-8.

2. But who has this heavenly hope?

a. Only those who have answered the call of the gospel.

b. Only those who are in Christ.

c. 1Thess.4:13-18.