

1 Timothy 1:1; Revelation 1:10-18

Hope means to anticipate with pleasure, a favorable, confident expectation...trust, assurance, confidence.

"The future is as bright as the promises of God." Adoniram Judson

"Those who keep speaking about the Sun while walking under a cloudy sky are messengers of hope, the true saints of our day." Henri Nouwen

"Hope can see heaven through the thickest clouds." Thomas Brooks

"Hope is faith in the future tense." Peter Anderson

'Hope' is biblical shorthand for unconditional certainty. John Blanchardi

"There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so

powerful as expectation of something tomorrow." Orison Swett Marden

"The nature of hope is to expect that which faith believes." Richard Sibbes

"True faith is never found alone; it is accompanied by expectation. C.S. Lewis

"Hopelessness is the stench of the enemy's bad breath." John Brown

"Hope is the fragrance of the winds of God; hope is heaven scent." John Brown

"Our old history ends with the cross, our new history begins with the resurrection. Watchman Nee

How can we have hope, live in hope, and have hope to give to others? In our day, there are a countless number of 'hope vendors' pushing their various concepts. Some are promoting a philosophy, ideology, or religion – still others would guide us to wealth and fame, or power and pleasure, or meditation and mysticism. Many proclaim the hedonistic mantra that you can believe anything you want to and do anything you want to anytime you want to...where is the hope and peace in that concept?

Real hope has a real foundation based on unchanging truth.

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

Our hope is not in a precept or a platitude...our hope is found in a person, in Jesus. Our hope is in Him and He is our hope when we believe in Him.

Paul wrote the book of 1 Timothy, and he has a lot to say about hope and especially about hope and resurrection.

I worship the God of our forefathers, believing everything that is taught in the Law or is written in the Prophets, and having a hope directed towards God, which my accusers themselves also entertain, that before long there will be a resurrection both of the righteous and the unrighteous. This too is my own earnest endeavor – always to have a clear conscience in relation to God and man. Acts 24:14-16
Weymouth

“The resurrection of the dead is the thing about which I am on my trial before you to-day.” Acts 24:21
Weymouth

- ***Paul had great hope in the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life.***
 - ***He also explains that the religious leaders who were badgering him should also have been hoping in God for the same reason.***

Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. Isaiah 26:19
NASB

Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2
NASB

- ***These are Old Testament descriptions of the resurrection written more than 700 years before the resurrection of Jesus. His resurrection makes it a reality for all who believe in Him.***

⁶ And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; ⁷ the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. ⁸ Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead? Acts 26:6-8
NASB

- **Paul calls the resurrection 'the hope of Israel', and then Paul asks this question...why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?**
- **Look what Jesus has to say about this:**
 - **Jesus says... "I was dead and behold I am alive forevermore, I have the keys of death and Hades....(He has dominion over death). (Physical death does not end a believers life.)"**

²⁰ Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house. ²¹ Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world." John 11:20-27 NASB

- **Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies...everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.
Do you believe this?"**

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

- **The blessed hope of Jesus' return and the resurrection of all believers.**

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from

heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 NASB

- ***Paul says in v14...if we believe...Jesus asks Martha, and each of us, do you believe this? He is the resurrection and the life!***
- ***What a great opportunity to say, "I believe," or confirm it if you have already done so.***

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NASB

God is so good...when we believe, He empowers us by His Spirit within us to be filled with the joy and peace of believing because He is the God of hope!

By His Spirit we abound in hope (we rejoice in hope, see Romans 12:12)...in hope, that divine certainty...that new sense of what is 'possible,' when we discover that with God, all things are possible...like the resurrection...

Happy Easter!