

THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE

TITUS 2.11-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. **JOB 14.1:** *“Man, who is born of woman, is few of days and full of trouble”* For many, every day is a struggle.
2. Hope offers great encouragement, sustains us, and motivates us in spite of the constant evil in this world. (2 Pet. 2.7,8)
3. **TITUS 2.13:** *“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”*

I. HOPE KEEPS US GOING IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS

- A. From the moment we become a Christian to the moment we depart this world, life is filled with challenges to our faith.
 1. Questions arise that we cannot answer. (1 Pet. 3.15)
 2. Brethren say or do hurtful things to us. (2 Cor. 12.20)
 3. Death takes away our loved ones. (John 11.21-24)
- B. How do we get through it all? Christians have hope!
 1. Hope is loosely used in our vernacular, yet the hope of the Bible is confident expectation. (Titus 1.2)
 2. Trials are necessary to develop character. (Rom. 5.1-5)

II. LIVING BY HOPE BEFORE HOPE IS REALIZED

- A. While we are waiting for the realization of the hope of heaven, there is a way in which we are expected to live.
 1. **TITUS 2.11:** *“For the grace of God...teaches us”*
 2. Christians do not live for the world participating in *“ungodliness and worldly lusts”* (Titus 2.12)
 - a) Anything that is unholy. (1 Thes. 4.7; 1 Pet. 2.11)
 - b) Worldly lusts replaces hope with fear.(Heb. 10.26,27)
 3. While we wait for the realization of hope, Christians live *“soberly, righteously, and godly”* (Titus 2.12)
- B. Everyone wants to enjoy the eternal hope of heaven, but our future eternity begins by the fleeting present.
 1. We do not know what is going to happen today, but hope springs eternal and keeps us from giving up. (Heb. 6.19)
 2. **2 CORINTHIANS 5.1:** *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed...”*

CONCLUSION: While in the world there is no hope, but we have hope who are in Christ. (Eph. 2.12,13)

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“...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” -Ephesians 2:19

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

JESUS CHRIST JUST MAKES SENSE

To most of the world, the meaning of life, the role of faith and religion and the eternal future is best left to the scholars and philosophers. As much as many would like to know the answers it is considered well beyond their ability to understand. While some contemplate the deep questions, they are left with more questions than answers.

A large number of Jews did not understand the meaning and significance of the Law of Moses. The coming of a Messiah? The establishment of a kingdom? The future state of Israel? What does it all mean? Paul explained that *“until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament...”* They read it, but they did not understand it. But when considers Jesus and applies His appearance, His death, and the establishment of the church to these Old Testament prophecies, it suddenly makes sense, *“because the veil is taken away in Christ”* (2 Cor. 3.14). He goes on to say that there were some who still did not understand. *“Nevertheless, when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”* (2 Cor. 3.15,16)

The same principle applies to our lives. When we understand that Jesus came and died for us that we might live faithful to Him and receive the hope of eternal life, we now have a firm grasp on the questions no one can seem to answer.

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 1:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Of all those who have ever lived, there is none greater than Jesus Christ of whom it is said that He is preeminent.
2. Preeminence: (Gk: proteuo) From the root word, protos, it is defined as “*to be first*” [STRONG] relating to rank and influence.
3. Christ deserves to be exalted in our lives, because He has been exalted by God. In what way has He been exalted?

I. “HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD” V. 15

- A. Every trait and quality that is found in the Father is also within the Son. (Col. 2.9; Heb. 1.3; 2 Cor. 4.3-6)
- B. Thus, to see Jesus is to also see the Father. (John 14.7-9)
- C. God reveals Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. (1 John 5.20; Heb. 2.12; John 17.6)

II. “THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION” V. 15

- A. The firstborn carries not the idea of first in time, but first in rank, although Christ preexists creation. (Gen. 1.1,26)
- B. The firstborn was of the highest importance and special rights and privileges. (Deut. 21.17; Gen. 25.23,31-34)
- C. **COLOSSIANS 1:18:** “...the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (cf. Rev. 5.13)

III. “FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED” V. 16

- A. All things were created “*by Him*” (John 1.1-3; 1 Cor. 8.6)
- B. All things were created “*for Him*” (Isa. 43.21; Rev. 4.11)
- C. And “*in Him all things consist*” (Col. 1. 17; Gen. 8.22)

IV. “HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY” V. 18

- A. Who is the head of this congregation? Elders? Preacher?
 1. Christ is the only legislative power. (Matt. 28.18-20)
 2. Thus, we are subject to His laws. (Phil. 1.1; Eph. 4.12)
- B. Why is Christ the head of the church?
 1. He is the builder of the church. (Matt. 16.18)
 2. His blood purchased the church. (Acts 20.28)
 3. His name identifies the church. (Rom. 16.16)
 4. His doctrine governs the church. (John 7.16,17)

CONCLUSION: Christians exalt Christ every day!

WAITING FOR THE SAVIOR

“This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through”. How often we have sung that song? We dwell on this earth, yet this earth is not our permanent residence. It is heaven where we intend to live for all eternity. The apostle Paul commented on that very point when he wrote, “*For our citizenship is in heaven, for which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 3.20).

The next chapter in Philippians begins with “*therefore*” indicating a conclusion to the fact that we are looking forward to a home in heaven. While we patiently, but eagerly wait to inhabit our eternal abode, we live our lives in such a way so as to obtain it.

PHILIPPIANS 4.4: “*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice*” Having an eternal home in heaven is now doubt cause for rejoicing. Though the world causes suffering, pain, sorrow, and loss, such will not be found in heaven. For “*God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*”

PHILIPPIANS 4.6: “*Be anxious for nothing...*” Sometimes tragedy can hit, hard times can overwhelm, and life’s challenges can threaten our peace of mind. What happens when circumstances make it difficult to rejoice? Put your trust in God. Pray to Him and express your fears, concerns, and troubles. And when you have put all your cares into His hands, “*...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4.7).

PHILIPPIANS 4.8: “*Finally, brethren, ...if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things*” The direction of our life is determined first and foremost with how we think. Every decision, every action, every emotion begins with a single thought. Therefore, Paul encourages his listeners to focus their minds on the positive. Think about those things that are well pleasing to God and are consistent with His divine will.

Waiting for the Lord is not a passive event but an active lifestyle. When we wait on the Lord we prepare ourselves for His coming and work to do all His good pleasure. When we do, we can say, “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus*” (Rev. 22.20). CLP