

The Christian's Hope

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The Christian's Hope

- 1. The Mercy and Grace of God**
- 2. Living Hope**
- 3. Results of the Living Hope**

The Christian's Hope

1 Peter 1: 3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The Mercy and Grace of God

1 Peter 1: 3

³ "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, who **according to His great mercy** has caused us to be **born again...**"

Hebrews 4: 16

¹⁶ Therefore let us **draw near with confidence to the throne of grace**, so that **we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

The Mercy and Grace of God

God is Merciful

Eph. 2: 4

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

God's Mercy and Grace are seen in Jesus Christ

Rom. 3: 22-24

22 even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

The Mercy and Grace of God

1 Corinthians 15: 10

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

The Grace of God in Christians' lives:

1. God's compassion toward us
2. Our total dependence upon God
3. Our lives are fulfilled by God's unmerited favor

Living Hope

1. Hope overcomes despair

Psalm 43: 5

⁵ Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

Living Hope

2. Is a gift of Grace

2 Thessalonians 2: 16

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

Living Hope

3. Is defined by Scripture

Romans 15: 4

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Living Hope

4. Is a reasonable reality

1 Peter 3: 5

⁵ For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

Living Hope

5. Is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

John 11: 25-26

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?"

Living Hope

6. Is confirmed in Christians by the Holy Spirit

Romans 15: 13

¹³ 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.

Living Hope

7. Defends Christians against Satan's attack

1 Thessalonians 5: 8

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.

Living Hope

8. Is confirmed through trials

Romans 5: 3-5

³ And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Living Hope

9. Produces a blessing

Psalm 146: 5

⁵ How blessed is he whose help is the
God of Jacob, **Whose hope is in the**
LORD his God,

Living Hope

10. Is fulfilled in Christ's return

Titus 2: 13

¹³ **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,**

Living Hope

1. Hope overcomes despair
2. Is a gift of grace
3. Is defined by Scripture
4. Is a reasonable reality
5. Is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
6. Is confirmed in the Christian by the Holy Spirit
7. Defends Christians against Satan's attack
8. Is confirmed through trials
9. Produces a blessing
10. Is fulfilled in Christ's return

Results of the Living Hope

The living hope is eternal life.

1 Peter 1:4-5

⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is*
imperishable and undefiled and will not
fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
⁵ who are protected by the power of God
through faith for a salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.

Results of the Living Hope

Inheritance

Imperishable

Undefined

Will not fade away

Reserved in heaven for you

Protected by the power of God

Through faith for salvation

Ready to be revealed in the last time

Results of the Living Hope

Believers are privileged to receive a spiritual inheritance from their heavenly Father as a result of their adoption into the family of God through faith.

1. Believers have an inheritance in Christ

a. Jesus Christ as God's heir

Hebrews 1: 2

2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

2. Believers are co-heirs with Christ

Romans 8:17

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.

Results of the Living Hope

3. Believers are heirs under the covenant

Hebrews 9: 15

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.**

4. Believers are heirs by grace

Acts 20: 32

32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

5. Believers are heirs through faith

Galatians 3: 29

29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.

Results of the Living Hope

A. Our inheritance is *incorruptible*.

It cannot perish; it does not age, deteriorate, or die; it does not have the seed of corruption within it.

B. Our inheritance is *undefiled*.

It cannot be polluted or defiled, dirtied or infected. Our inheritance will be without any flaw or defect; it will be perfectly free from sickness, disease, infections, accident, pollution, dirt—from any defilement whatsoever. There will never be any tears over what happens to oneself or over the damage or loss of some possession.

Results of the Living Hope

C. Our inheritance *does not fade away.*

It will last forever and ever. The splendor and beauty of it all shall never fade or diminish.

D. Our inheritance is *reserved in heaven.*

God is holding it for us. God is simply waiting for us to finish our task here on earth and to go to Him. Then He will give us our inheritance.

Results of the Living Hope

For all faithful believers, there is the assurance of the hope.

There is the assurance of God's power. God's power protects us.

The might and strength of God's power protect us:

- a. Throughout our journey on earth
- b. Through all the trials and temptations in our life

God will see to it that we shall reach the glorious end of life, that is salvation.

God in His sovereign and omnipotent power, will see to it that we receive eternal life and the inheritance that is being reserved for us.

2 Thess. 3: 3

3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Results of the Living Hope

There is the assurance of faith.

A. By our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

It is a faith that loves Christ with all its heart and life. It is a faith that seeks to follow Christ and to please Him in all that it does. Therefore, a continuing faith is a faith that lives a holy, righteous, and pure life that serves the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. By our faith in God's power

A true faith is a continuing faith and trust in God's power. A continuing faith is diligent and vigilant.

His sovereign omnipotence continuously protects His elect. If God is for believers, no one can successfully oppose them.

Results of the Living Hope

Salvation is “rescue” or “deliverance.” It is the full, final and eternal life that God, by His mercy and grace, will give to faithful Christians.

A. Salvation is **justification** for those who believe in Jesus Christ and who are delivered from the penalty of sin.

Rom. 10: 8-10

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 for with the heart a person believes, **resulting in righteousness**, and with the mouth he confesses, **resulting in salvation**.

Results of the Living Hope

B. Salvation is sanctification. Believers are continually being delivered from the power of sin.

1 John 1: 8-10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

C. Salvation is glorification. God completely and finally delivers a faithful Christian from the presence of sin and brings him into His eternal inheritance in His heavenly presence.

Heb. 9: 27-28

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,

28 so **Christ** also, having been **offered once to bear the sins of many**, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to* sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Results of the Living Hope

The outcome of salvation is ready to be revealed in the last time.

The believers were under great pressure in the first century. The persecution, instigated by Nero at Rome, was spreading in their direction. Peter encouraged the believers, who were suffering, that their deliverance and an eternal inheritance were in their future.

Faith and hope are ultimately gifts of God. God fortifies believers so that they persist in faith and hope until the day that they obtain their inheritance – eternal life.

Results of the Living Hope

A. The Christian's Hope is in Jesus' Promises

John 5: 28-29

28 “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

B. The Christian's Hope is in Jesus' Works

John 11: 43-44

43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”

44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Results of the Living Hope

C. The Christian's Hope is in Jesus' death on the cross

Rom. 5: 8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

D. The Christian's Hope is in Jesus' Resurrection

1 Cor. 15: 20-23

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

21 For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

Results of the Living Hope

E. The Christian's Hope is in Jesus' Ascension

Heb. 6: 19-20

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, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

F. The Christian's Hope is in Jesus' Return

1 Thess. 4: 16-17

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.