



The Good News

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What is Hope?

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As we know, hope is a key attribute of our faith. The Greek term for hope is defined by Vines as “favorable and confident expectation”. So, how do the Scriptures describe this “confident expectation”?

Blessed Hope – In **Titus 2:11-14**, Paul says “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” What does “blessed hope” mean? This phrase denotes a “pronouncement of blessedness”. This is the acknowledgment that our hope is a blessed one, and we should not be ashamed of it because, when our hope is realized and our Lord returns, we will have a home in Heaven waiting for us.

Good Hope – Paul says in **II Thess. 2:16-17**, “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.” The term for “good” here (both times) is “*agathos*”, which means “*beneficial, profitable*”. This means that our hope is beneficial and profitable for us. As Paul mentions, we have great comfort and encouragement in Christ, and because of the benefits of our hope, we should make sure our words and works provide benefits to others.

Living Hope – Peter writes in **I Peter 1:3-5**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” Peter says that our hope is alive. There are several aspects to this, but primarily it is the recognition that since Jesus was raised from the dead, we have the promise from the Lord that He will do the same for us. The prospect of this resurrection being a hopeful one rests on us being made alive in the spirit through baptism and remaining faithful.

Our hope is blessed, good, and living. This hope is “better” and gives us the means to draw near to God, as the Hebrew writer says in **Hebrews 7:18-19**, “For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness; for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”

Let us thank God for the wonderful hope that He has given through His Son and let us live in such a way that honors and upholds this hope every day as we look forward to the return of our Lord.