

OUR BLESSED HOPE

- ¹¹ ***For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,***
¹² ***training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,***
¹³ ***waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,***
¹⁴ ***who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.***

[Titus 2:12–13](#) says that the grace of God teaches us “to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” This passage identifies the “blessed hope” as the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ, our great God and Savior.

The word *blessed* can mean “happy” or “beneficial”; our hope is “blessed” in that Jesus’ return will be an amazing, joyful experience for the believer in Christ. We will be blessed beyond measure when we see Christ. The trials of this life will be over, and we will see that “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” ([Romans 8:18](#)). The word *hope* does not communicate uncertainty, as in “I hope that something might occur”; rather, it is the glad assurance that something **will** take place. Jesus is our hope, and no one can take that hope away. [Romans 5:5](#) says, “Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us”.

The “blessed hope,” then, is the joyful assurance that God will extend His benefits to us and that Jesus Christ will return. We are waiting for this event now. Jesus said He would return, John 14:1-3 says,

- 1) “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

The angels said He would return in [Acts 1:11](#),

⁶ *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

⁷ *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*

⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

⁹ *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and **a cloud took him out of their sight.***

¹⁰ *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,*

¹¹ *and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.**"*

Jesus could come back at any time for His church, which includes all believers in Christ from the [Day of Pentecost](#) in [Acts 2](#) onward. This event is called the rapture or the catching away/up. It will be announced by the voice of the archangel and God's trumpet call. The bodies of those who have died will be raised to be joined with their souls, and then the bodies of those believers still living on earth will be changed into a body like the Lord's resurrection body. The believers raised from

the dead and the believers living at Christ's return will meet the Lord in the air and be taken to heaven. We will "fly the friendly skies united"

[1 Thessalonians 4:13–18](#)).

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left 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 cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This will happen in the twinkling of an eye ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)).

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

How fast is a twinkle? **TWINK** (twinkle) is a reflected particle of light seen in the eye. Most of us have noticed a twinkle in someone's eye . . . that reflected light

we observed traveled at 186,000 miles per second (speed of light). That little ray of light entering the eye and then being reflected, occurs in about **a billionth of a second**. A twinkle is very fast and this is how fast the Bride of Christ will be caught away, to ever be with the Lord.

The question then is, should this blessed hope of Christ's any-time return, have an effect on the believer in Jesus Christ?

John wrote, "All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as [Jesus] is pure" ([1 John 3:3](#)).

The believer anticipating Christ's blessed return will seek to live, in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, a life of purity. We will all stand before the Lord and give an account of how we lived for Him on earth. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says,

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Jesus' [imminent](#), (The word *imminent* means "likely to happen at any moment; impending."), return should motivate the believer to live godly, in an ungodly world.

The word *looking* or *waiting* in [Titus 2:13](#), is the key for that to happen. To be "looking" means that we live each day in continual anticipation with confidence and expectancy, with the conviction that Jesus could come at any time. That hope becomes a transforming reality in this life, resulting in God being glorified through us. We see this in 1 Corinthians 10:31,

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

The blessed hope brings us joy and cheers us through the trials of this world. It should also cause us to stop and evaluate our thinking, words, and actions in light of eternity.

Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ Mt. 16:13-19

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood (men) has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock (or truth) I will build my church (my Bride), and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Is. 22:22)

On Christ the Solid Rock

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;

When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

- *Refrain:*

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.