

The Greatest Hope of All

Have you ever thought about how we most often use the word hope? Usually we say, I hope something happens, but I realize, there are no guarantees. That is how we use the word hope most often. But did you know that the Bible defines hope differently?

Hope, according to the Bible is confident expectation. Expecting something is going to happen with confidence. That is quite a bit different than wanting something with no certainty. Biblical hope is waiting for something that you are confident will happen.

Let me ask you, how would you like to be able to look into your future expecting great things to happen for you and to do that with confidence?

THE BELIEVER IN JESUS HAS THE GREATEST HOPE OF ALL.

Now you may say, how so? Well, let me explain. On the night before Jesus went to the cross, He taught 4 facts of life for believers that prove we have the greatest hope of all.

Fact #1 - The believer in Jesus has a future in heaven. 14:1-3

A good question to ask yourself is if you died today, how sure are you that you would go be with Christ in the Father's house? Well, if you have believed in Jesus, as verse 1 states, then you can confidently expect to transfer from life on earth in this physical realm to life in heaven in the Father's house when you die.

I want you to notice the promises Jesus made to the disciples.

Promise #1) The Father's house is a real place.

Promise #2) The Father's house has many rooms, or many dwelling places.

Promise #3) Jesus was going to prepare a place for His own in God's home.

Promise #4) Jesus will come again to take his own to be with Him in that place.

Are you down this morning? Are you anxious? Nervous about tomorrow? Stressed out? Rest in this: The believer in Jesus has the greatest hope of all. Why? Because he has a future in heaven.

Fact #2 - The believer in Jesus knows the way to heaven. 14:4-6

Jesus is the way to God the Father because in Him is the truth of God. Colossians 2:3 says that in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Christ Himself is truth. Pilate said, what is truth? Christ is truth. Everything He is is true, and everything He said is true. How do we know? Because He rose from the dead. When you come to faith in Christ, you are choosing to put your faith in Truth. And not only is Jesus the way to the Father because He is the truth of God, but He is the life. In Christ, a person has the life only God can give. Life unending. Life eternal. Jesus is the creator of life physically, and He is the giver of Life spiritually and eternally. John earlier wrote that in Jesus is life. Peter said in Acts 3:15 that Jesus is the Author of life. Jesus wrote the book on eternal Life. You want life as your Creator meant

life to be? Come to Christ by faith in Him. He is the way, and the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

He is that narrow gate through which we enter the glories of heaven in the presence of God the Father in His house. He is the exclusive gate one must enter through. The only way to heaven is through Christ. And how do you enter heaven through Christ? There is only one way: By faith in Him and His work on the cross for you. (1 John 5:4-5)

Fact #3 - The believer in Jesus knows God the Father. **14:7-11**

Reality #1) - Knowing Christ is equal to knowing the Father. 14:7

Reality #2) - Seeing Christ is equal to seeing the Father. 14:8-9

Reality #3) - Hearing Christ is equal to hearing the Father. 14:10

Reality #4) - Watching Christ's works are equal to watching the Father work. 14:11

Do you want to strengthen your hope? Focus your mind on Christ.

Fact #4 - The believer in Jesus has great things in store before he goes to heaven. **14:12-14**

God has big plans for the believer. Coming to Christ is not simply that you get heaven someday. Coming to faith in Christ gets you so much more. The believer in Jesus gets to do the works He has done, and not only that, but even greater works than Jesus.

Jesus connected the greater works with prayer. I think Jesus is teaching us here that through the prayers of believers, we can watch God do the impossible right in front of our eyes.

We have a great work to do. God has given us the opportunity to impact eternity. If that doesn't stir up hope in you, what will?

Hey believer in Jesus: hold your head up high today. You have the greatest hope of all. Christ has promised you heaven. You know the way - It's Him. Through faith in Him, you now know God the Father, and before you go to heaven, hope in this: God has great works in store for you if you would simply take Christ at His word. Do you trust that Christ can do great works in and through you as you pray for what He wants to do?

The Believer in Christ Has the Greatest Hope of All.