

**March 5, 2017**

## HOPE for Heaven: An Eternal Perspective

### I. What is the hope of eternal life? Eternal Security

*1 Peter 1:3-5 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*John 3:16 says, For God so loved the world he gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in him with not perish but have eternal life.*

*1 John 5:11, I write these things to you who believe in the son of God so that you might know you have eternal life.*

### II. Why is an eternal perspective is so important?

It changes how we live now. It changes our priorities. It gives us the ability to persevere, to risk, to do good works, to let go of what holds us back.

*Hebrews 11:13 NIV*

*1 Peter 4:1-5 NIV*

*Philippians 1:21 NIV*

*Hebrews 13: 14-16 NLT*

### III. How can we be assured of eternal life?

*Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

*Romans 3:23 (NIV) ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*Romans 6:23 (NLT) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 5:8 NLT But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*

*Romans 10:9-10, and 13 NLT If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved ... For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

*1 John 5:11-13 NIV And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

## Prayer for the Assurance of Our Salvation

Jesus. I know that you are real. I acknowledge the fact that I have sinned and fallen short of your glory. I accept your sacrifice on the cross as the payment for my sins. I want to turn from my selfish ways. I believe that you were born of a virgin, suffered under Pontius Pilot were crucified, died and buried, and on the third day arose from the dead.

The Bible says that when I confess Jesus as Lord, when I believe in my heart that you were raised from the dead, I can be assured of eternal life. Scripture says I am saved by grace and not by works. I acknowledge that I need you alone for eternal life, so come into my heart Lord Jesus. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Scripture says, 'Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'. I am calling on your name, Jesus.

Thank you that I can know that I have eternal life. Thank you for the assurance that one day I will see you face to face I look forward to my hope in heaven. Amen!