

A Living Hope

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Do you need some hope today? Here it is! 1 Peter 1:3, “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope (a living hope!) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” In the New Testament the word “hope” means to believe in something that is certain to happen. It’s not, as someone might say: “Well, I hope that someday I’ll make it to Heaven.” Biblical hope says, “I know I am going to Heaven.”

Peter says the hope of the believer in Jesus Christ is the absolute assurance that he is going to Heaven. This living hope should have a daily impact upon our lives. With faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can possess a constant hope, an exciting expectation, an amazing anticipation! It is the hope of being in Heaven someday where there will be no more pain, sorrow, sin, and disease. 1 Peter 1:4 speaks of this blessed heavenly hope as “an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

First, our hope is *unchanging* (“incorruptible”). The word means imperishable or not subject to destruction. Our heavenly inheritance is something that will be constant and forever the same. In other words, all of our heavenly blessings will never change but be there forever for us to enjoy throughout eternity! Second, our hope is *unblemished* (“undefiled”). This word describes our future heavenly inheritance as something that is unstained or unpolluted from a spiritual perspective, something that flawless and perfect. Heaven is

a place that is undefiled and unblemished. No sin is found inside the pearly gates (Rev. 21:27).

This means that in order to enter Heaven, I must have my sins forgiven through Jesus Christ, who said “I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people! Are you prepared to go to Heaven? Are your sins forgiven?

Third, our hope is *unending* (“and that fadeth not away”). This means that our future inheritance in Heaven will never lose its wonder, glory, amazement, and magnificence. Heaven will retain its beauty and continue to bring us great joy forever. We will never lose the wonder of it all! Finally, it is *untouched* (“reserved in heaven for you”). This means that our inheritance will be there when we get there! It also means that I will get there since I have a reservation waiting for me! The word “reserved” actually means guarded or protected, watched over. Our future inheritance is fixed and unalterable. Heaven is the most secure place in all the universe! If we know Jesus Christ as our Savior, our inheritance is certain. We must believe it by having faith in God’s promise! Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). Philippians 3:20 says that “our conversation (citizenship) is in Heaven.”

Do you possess this living hope? Our hope of Heaven should be growing and maturing in our hearts. It should be a hope that is becoming greater and more beautiful as time goes on. Time destroys most hopes; they fade and then die. But the passing of time only makes a Christian’s hope that much more glorious!