



HOPE

The Anchor of Your Soul

We have all been “in the same boat” with cloudy thinking about hope. The common view of hope in our culture is quite different from Christian hope. If we live by cultural hope, we will have a boatful of wishful thinking, and what you hope for will sometimes happen. . . and sometimes not. However, Christian hope is based on the Bible - God’s unchanging Word. By patiently relying on what God says, we will have all the hope necessary with all the certainty we will ever need. Paul states the source of our hope in Romans 15:4.

WHAT IS HOPE?

When we live with biblical hope, we have an anchored life. We are held steady in the midst of **ANY** storm. Because hope is often misunderstood, an accurate understanding of the meaning of hope is crucial. The Bible says that when your hope is anchored in God, He will teach you His truth and lead you in the way you should go. This prayer is yours to claim. . .

- Hope identified as cultural hope is merely an optimistic desire that something will be fulfilled. This hope is not guaranteed hope because it is subject to changeable people and circumstances.
- Hope identified as Christian hope is an optimistic assurance that something **WILL** be fulfilled. This hope is guaranteed and not subject to changes but rather anchored in our unchangeable Savior and Lord.
- Hope in the New Testament is conveyed by the Greek word “elpis”, which means a “favorable and confident expectation” relating to the future. Thus this hope will never be a disappointment. As Christians, we are promised peace with God based on Romans 5:3-5.



WE HAVE
this HOPE
as an anchor
for the
SOUL
firm and secure.
Hebrews 6:19

“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God, my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

Psalm 25:5

WHAT IS HOPELESSNESS?

When zealous religious leaders sought to kill Paul, he - a Roman citizen - appealed to Caesar. Soon Paul found himself a prisoner on a ship headed to Rome. A treacherous storm arose, and eventually all on board lost hope. All on board believed they would die and everyone on board saw their situation as hopeless (Acts 27:20).

- Hopelessness is characterized by absolute despair with no expectation of good (Job 8:13).
- Hopelessness in the New Testament is conveyed by the Greek work “apelpizo”, which is also translated to “despair”. “Apo” means “away from” and “elipizo” means “to hope”. When combined, this word literally means “to be away from hope”.
- Hopeless thinking can result in a desire to die. Those who feel hopeless are unable to envision any viable option for their problem and death seems to be the only solution (Psalm 119:116).