**A Christian’s Hope**

**Introduction**

1. Christians have something to rejoice in.
2. We rejoice in hope (cf. Romans 12:12)!
3. What is hope? How does one attain hope? And what is the hope in?
4. What is hope?
5. Desire for the unseen.

* Romans 8:24-25 – The desire here is for the redemption of the body (v. 23).
  + Previously talked about suffering (v. 18).
  + 1 John 3:2-3 – We don’t know the specifics about the spiritual body we are to receive. For this reason our hope is for something not seen.

1. Sure and Steadfast.

* Hebrews 6:19-20 – Hope acts as an anchor that secures our place in heaven even though we are still on earth.
  + **“To ground hope on a false supposition, is like trusting to a weak anchor.” – Socrates (Greek Philosopher)**
  + Sure and Steadfast because it is grounded on the immutability of God’s counsel – (v. 13-18) – He made a promise and took an oath (v. 13).
* Because it is supported by faith – Hebrews 11:1 (Faith is not blind. It is substance and evidence.)
  + Romans 10:17 – It is substance and evidence because the word of God tells us about God and His promises. (His word is truth – cf. John 17:17).

1. Living

* 1 Peter 1:3 – living – to live, be alive; it is active.
  + 1 Corinthians 15:19, 32-34 – If there is no hope then there is no reason for living righteously. However, there is hope, and that hope activates us toward discipleship. (Why follow Christ if there is no hope in Him?)

1. It must be defended.

* 1 Peter 3:15 – We can give a defense because there is good reason for our hope!
  + Romans 15:4 – Through the study of the OT we learn of God and His faithfulness. This produces hope in attaining the promises!
    - This is our reason for hope. God’s character of consistent righteousness! (cf. 2 Peter 3:3-6 – Example of a defense using our reason for an expectation of a promise from God.)

1. How is hope attained?

* Begotten again to a hope. (cf. 1 Peter 1:3)
  + Begotten – *anagennaō* – “thoroughly to change the mind of one, so that he lives a new life and one conformed to the will of God” (Thayer).
  + (v. 23) – Born again – new life.
    - How? (v. 22-23) – through the Spirit, i.e., obedience to God’s word!
* John 3:3-5; Acts 8:36-39 – Baptism is a new birth (spiritual). Why was the eunuch rejoicing? He had hope!

1. Hope of what?
2. Salvation

* 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10 – Jesus died for us that we might have the hope of salvation! (Deliverance from death, i.e. eternal life – with God) 🡪

1. Heaven/Eternal life

* Titus 1:1-2 – In God is life. To dwell with Him is life.

1. Resurrection

* 1 Corinthians 15:50-52 – Flesh and blood cannot inherit such. So we must be resurrected in a spiritual body.

1. Glory

* 1 John 3:2 – The body we will be given is glorious (cf. Romans 8:18).
* Colossians 3:4 – We will be with Christ in Glory.

**Conclusion**

1. The world does not have hope (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 – Only those in Jesus have hope).

* The difference between the reality of a resurrection for the believer and unbeliever is desire.
* The believer desires (hopes for) the resurrection, waiting in expectation, because it is a positive thing. The unbeliever does not hope for such because he does not believe. However, also because it is something only to be desired by believers.

1. However, hope is available in Christ (cf. Galatians 3:26-29 – Hope of the promise because in Christ you are an heir.)