**Edward Christian Church *“Hope -The Anchor of Your Soul”* -pt 1**

What an **Anchor** is to a **Ship**, **Hope** is to the **Soul**. They both **Stabilize** - **Hold Steady** amidst the **Storms** in life. **Every** Christian has been given a **Secure Anchor** in the **Person of Christ**...

 *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."* -**Heb 6:19**

The **Common View** of **Hope** in our **Culture** is quite **Different** from **Christian Hope***.*

* **Cultural Hope**can be**Wishful Thinking -**what you hope for will **sometimes happen**/ **sometimes not**.
* **Christian Hope** is **Based** on the **Bible**- **God's Unchanging Word**. By **patiently relying** on what **God says**, you will have all the hope **necessary** to deal w- your needs. **Paul states the Source of Our Hope**..

*"Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance/ the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."* -**Rom 15:4**

**What Is Hopelessness?**

When religious leaders sought to kill the apostle Paul, he- a **Roman citizen**- **appealed to Caesar**. Soon Paul found himself a prisoner on a ship headed to Rome. A **storm** arose/ **eventually** all on board **lost hope**.... **All** on board **believed** they would **die**.... **All** on board saw the situation as **hopeless***.* *"When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days/ the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved."* **Acts 27:20**

* **Hopelessness** is characterized by ***absolute despair* w- *no expectation of good****.* A **Hope** that **Perishes**
*"Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless." -***Job 8:13**
* **Hopelessness in the New Testament** is conveyed by the Gk word translated **"Despair"** **(*"away from"*** and ***"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 **see** any viable **option** for their **problems**- **Death** seems the **Only Solution**.

A ship **without** an anchor is **vulnerable** on the open seas- **easy** to **lose hope** of survival when a storm is **severe**. In our storms, rather than drowning in a sea of **hopelessness**, the Lord calls us to put our **hope** in **Him**, allowing Him to be our **Anchor** / Relying on **His Promises**. **Let this be Your Personal Prayer.** *"Sustain me according to your promise/ I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed."* -**Psa 119:116**

**What Is Hope?**

When we live with **Biblical Hope**, we have an **Anchored Life**. We are **held steady** in the midst of **any storm**. **Hope** is often **misunderstood**, so an accurate understanding of **Hope is Crucial**. 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...**

*"Guide me in your truth / teach me, for you are God my Savior, / my hope is in you all day long."* -**Psalm 25:5**

* **Hope** identified as ***Cultural Hope*** is merely an ***Optimistic Desire*** that something will be fulfilled. This hope is ***not*** a ***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 a ***guaranteed*** hope not subject to change, but rather anchored in our unchangeable Savior/ Lord.
* **Hope** in the New Test Gk = a ***"Favorable and Confident Expectation"*** relating to the future.

The Bible uses the word ***hope*** in both the **Secular** and the **Spiritual** sense, the **Focus** of our Christian hope is always **based** on the ***Guaranteed Promises of God****.* This **Hope** will **never** be a **Disappointment**. Christians are **Promised Peace** with **God**....

*"We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."* -**Rom 5:3-5**

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