

## 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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