

HOPE

Having been justified
by his grace, we might
become heirs having the
hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:7

From Pastor's Desk...

The Amazing Grace and Hope of Eternal Life

All three persons of the blessed Trinity participate in our salvation. A believer acknowledges the forgiveness of the Father, redemptive act of Jesus and regeneration by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-7). The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men (2:11). Our sins are washed away, and we are continually renewed by the Holy Spirit for good works and faithful service.

- The hope of eternal life is promised by God long ages ago (1:2). The promise of God "he will crush your head" (Gen.3:15) foreshadows the victory of Jesus over Satan in the resurrection. God already revealed his plan to defeat Satan and offer eternal life to the world through his Son, Jesus Christ. The

eternal life that God has promised will be ours because he keeps his promises.

- People of God throughout Centuries could build their faith on the foundation of a trustworthy God who never lies. Simeon and Anna, though very old had never lost their hope that they would see the Messiah. The angels appeared to the shepherds who were watching over their flocks at night out in the fields and announced the good news of great joy for all the people (Luke 2:8-10). The shepherds went straight to Bethlehem, saw the baby in the manger and returned glorifying and praising God for the incarnation (God became man), the greatest miracle in the world. The first Christmas celebration on earth had a great impact on succeeding generations.

- It is God's life embodied in Christ given to all believers now as a guarantee that they will live forever. Eternal life is not an extension of a person's immortal life. We

receive new life by faith based on the amazing grace of God. The life after death (quantitative life) and the transformed life at present (Qualitative life) are made possible through the blood of the eternal covenant by God (Heb.13:20). Those who believe in Jesus' name receive the new, endless, supernatural life of the kingdom of God.

- We live and look forward to the return of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13-14). Our blessed hope is to be with him and to have our perfection of the eternal life. He has saved us for this purpose. We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ (3:7). We cherish the sure expectation that one day we will receive our full inheritance in heaven, an unclouded fellowship with God.

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HOPE

Br: Biju Zacharias

In these unprecedented, unfound pandemic times, challenges that are unfamiliar with our current generation are prevalent. Though the beautiful word 'hope' has multifaceted dimensional meanings. Let's approach hope from three viewpoints: Christian perception, worldly perception, and finally how to enrich our hope

- Firstly, Christian hope has the same importance as faith and love. We are familiar with the verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13 "and these three remain faith, hope, and love...." Even though we are not worthy of kindness and love, God still chose to love us. This is given through Jesus Christ and reinforced by the Holy Spirit. A genuine believer steadfast in faith acknowledges his salvation looking forward with the hope of eternal life. Hope is

like a bridge between the holy faith and its final destination, eternal life. Along with strong faith, one needs the bridge of hope to reach the final destination.

- Secondly, let us see the non-believer's approach to hope. They bestow their hope on their favorite idols and material possessions of this world. The current pandemic situation is the best example of how human strongholds are crumbling down; leaders are unable to thwart a crisis like this. Recent news from Japan should be an eye-opener to those boasting scientific advancements in the world. Last month's suicidal deaths in Japan were more than Covid-19 deaths there. Being the third-largest economy in the world Japan miserably failed to acknowledge hope through the grace of Jesus Christ. When people are confined to their homes to obey stay-at-home orders, Psychologists charge that people are missing

opportunities for “meaningful communication” with their friends, coworkers, and other social groups. This is leading to depression and other psychological disorders.

- Finally, a believer should nurture and nourish their hope daily. A Holy Spirit-filled person will never come short of “meaningful communication.” Meaningful communication with our living and loving God is possible by Meditating on the Word of God, communion with the Holy Spirit, and prayer.

In John 14:18 Jesus said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” When our God promises he will be with us forever there’s no reason for lack of hope. Let’s all keep our hope alive and fruitful.

How to Access Eternal Life

Bro: Kevin Mathew

One of the many things we all, as devoted Christians, have in common is our hope for eternal life. Although we may not realize our longing for it, who else can turn down the invitation to a new world with no pain, no wars, no sorrows, no barriers between races and their culture. This is only found in eternity with Christ. Eternal life is something you cannot earn by works, but by faith, the faith you have in Christ. I am sure many, if not all of you know John 3:16 by heart, as it is a common yet powerful verse. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". To save a world that is going in a downward spiral, God made the ultimate sacrifice through his Son Jesus, which was predicted many times in the Old Testament. God sacrificed his one and only

Son, so that anyone who believes in him may have a future in Heaven. In Romans 8:1 we read "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Jesus Christ". Through the death of Christ on the cross of Calvary, God opened a way for eternal salvation for all humanity. But how can we have eternal life with Christ?

The answer is simple, anyone who "believes in him (Christ) shall not perish but have eternal life". You can be a persecutor of Christians, like Saul, to a religious person like the centurion we see in Acts 10. Both people share the same afterlife because both have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior before the end of their life. The first person ever to enter Heaven after death was a thief who has accepted Jesus as his Savior in the very last moment of his life. If you sincerely believe in Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you will receive the gift of eternal life. And like I asked

before, who wouldn't want such a perfect gift, a place full of the immense presence of Christ?

No matter what, it is impossible to have peace on the earth without Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. But as Christians, we don't have to worry, because we believe that Jesus will return and we will be with him for ever and ever. Our hope in eternity is secured through the faith in Jesus who died for us on the cross of Calvary.
