



HOPE

LIVES

Hope Lives On!

By Pastor Sabu Samuel

We have a hope that scientific facts cannot be explained. Martha, in John 11:21-22, understood this kind of hope. After her brother, Lazarus, died (and had been dead for four days), Martha met Jesus as he arrived at the scene. She said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Even now? Four days after her brother was dead, she still has hope? Yes. She desires her brother to live again, and fully expects Jesus to make that a reality. We learn as much in the verses that follow:

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world" (John 11:23-27).

Martha's hope was centered on Jesus. Her faith was in the one who is the resurrection and the life. As Christians, we should have the same hope as Martha. We have a hope that goes beyond the rational mind. It requires belief or faith and yet, to many, seems unbelievable. It goes beyond the realm of scientific investigation, and yet is historical fact. We have the hope of the resurrection of Jesus, this hope is a living hope.

Jesus's resurrection is the basis of Christian hope, because he rose from the dead, we know death has been defeated. We have hope that there is a new creation coming. We have hope that everything wrong with the world will be made right. We have hope that our tears will turn into joy, and will reign with our Savior forever. That is the power of Christian hope.

Resurrection hope is life changing. It sometimes defies medical wisdom. New Testament scholar N.T. Wright puts it this way, "Hope, for the Christian, is not wishful thinking or mere blind optimism. It is a mode of knowing, a mode within which new things are possible, options are not shut down, new creation can happen." Christian hope sees beyond the brokenness of the present world and into a future of blessed creation. This is why trusting in God makes all the difference. Above all hope is the reason to live.

Hope of Salvation

By Anjana Cherian

“Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” - 2 Corinthians: 4:16-18

The dictionary definition of hope is a feeling or desire for positive expectations. As Christians, we know that hope is the true state of mind which is more than a feeling, and is reflected in all our actions and decisions. The foundation of Christian faith is the hope in Christ. *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”-Hebrews 11:1.*

What is the hope of Salvation?

The crucifixion of Christ paid for our sins and His resurrection gives us the blessed hope of future Salvation. Being saved from the penalty of sin in the past, power of sin in the present, and presence of sin in the future, completes the work of salvation in our lives. This is demonstrated through justification (Rom. 8:1-2), sanctification (Phil. 2:12-13), and glorification. The hope of Salvation provides a comprehensive freedom from sin by grace through faith.

Why do we hope for Salvation?

The Lord has given us the free-will to choose between following our logic, or to surrender to His divine power to control the actions of our daily life and decisions that have a long-term impact. Following our rationale does give a sense of temporary satisfaction and autonomy; but it only leads to the slippery slope of floating away from the divine presence. A total surrender to God's control requires huge leaps of faith, especially facing an unknown, uncertain future; however, this intentional choice brings us back to the presence of God and experience the unexplainable peace that is provided only by the Spirit of God. This takes our eyes from the momentary wins to eternal hope of Salvation and provides answers to many questions regarding unfairness and inequalities around us.

Hope of Salvation does not promise an optimism delineated by the standards of this world including prosperity, materialism, fairness, or justice. Instead, it bestows the directions for a consistent practical Christian life and peace that passeth all understanding while in crisis. Putting our hope in Christ is a deliberate choice and we are the only ones who can make this choice for ourselves.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the hope of Salvation that you have given us. We ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit to direct and guide us to choose this hope over everything around us. Help us to manifest your hope in our day to day lives. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Importance of Salvation

By Abel Varghese Kurian

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" - Acts:4:12

Salvation means deliverance or redemption. In a biblical context, salvation is deliverance of us people from sin and its consequences, which includes death and separation from God, through Christ's death and resurrection. Salvation is not through our actions or efforts but only by Grace alone. Jesus said to the women *"your faith has saved you, go in peace"* (Luke 7:50). Our actions or works will not save us from our sin, we can be saved only through faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is the gift of God (Rev 7:10) - Salvation is the gift of freedom from our sins that Jesus made possible by taking the punishment of our sins on the cross. In order to be saved from our sin and receive eternal life, we must accept the salvation made possible through Jesus Christ.

How to Achieve Salvation

1- Hear the Gospel of Christ. 2 Timothy 2:8 says *"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel."* One should hear about the Gospel of Jesus in order to believe in him. Romans 10:17 says *faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.* As Christ's ambassadors, it is our responsibility to speak about the Gospel to our friends and fellow beings.

2- Believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God In order to be saved. One must believe that Jesus Christ is the son of the Living God (Matt: 16:16). The Jailer asked Paul and Silas *"what must I do to be saved?"* They answered *"believe in the Lord Jesus and you and your household will be saved"* (Acts: 16:30-31). Also, as John 8:24 says, *"I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."* We all are the missionaries of Christ, We should have the pain that our fellow neighbors are not saved and died in their sins. Each day is an opportunity for us to share the word of God to others, so that they will be saved into eternal life.

3- Repent of all past sins. Luke 24:47 says *"repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."* Repentance is one's understanding about the wrong doings and the insight of sin which separates them from God.

4- Confess that Christ is the Son of God. Peter said *"you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."* (Matt:16:16). One must confess that Jesus is the Son of Living God. This is the Great Truth and very foundation upon which the church of Christ is built . Romans 10:9 says *"if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"*. 1 John: 1:7 declares that the blood of Jesus Christ purifies us from all sins, we just need to repent and confess. We should be able to ask Jesus for forgiveness about our sins and make a decision to repent our wrong doings. Matthew: 10:32-33 says *"whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven"*.

Conclusion

John 3:16-17 says *"for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."* Dear ones, Jesus Christ is the one and only answer for our salvation. Are you saved from your sins? If your answer is yes, transform every day by renewing your mind and living according to the perfect Will of God. If not, this is the right time, think and be saved through Jesus Christ.

Weekly Meetings		
Date	Time	Location
Tuesday	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	@ Zoom
Friday	10:00 AM - 11:00AM	@ Zoom
Saturday	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	@ Church

Mark Your Calendar		
Event	Date	Location
Ladies Meeting	April 5	@ Zoom
Cottage Meeting	April 13	@ Saji Chacko's Home
PYPA	April 20	@ Church
Church Picnic	April 27	@ Carbon Canyon Regional Park

Pray For Nations		
Country	Capital	Population est.
Ghana	Accra	32,823,000
Gibraltar	Gibraltar	34,003
Greece	Athens	9,456,000
Grenada	St. George's	116,400
Guatemala	Guatemala City	16,564,000

TO THE YOUTH

Feel free to take the following Bible Quiz via the QR Code. The winner this month will get a small reward!

