

“Our Blessed Hope!”
The Properties Of Hope

Introduction:

1. R. C. Sproul Once Wrote This About:
 - Our Hope As Christians:
 - “Hope is called the anchor of the soul, because it gives *stability* to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a ‘wish’ (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the *certainty* of the *promises* of the future that God has made!”
 - Hope Is - “That Which Latches On To The Certainty Of The Promises Of The Future That God Has Made!”
 - A Christian’s Hope:
 - Is A Blessed Hope!
 - And God Has Given Us This Real, Certain Kind Of Hope In Christ:
 - To Help Us As We Live Our Lives For Him In This World!
2. In Our Study On “Our Blessed Hope”:
 - We Have Already Looked At:
 - The Person Of Hope!
 - Who Is, Of Course, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And We Have Already Looked At:
 - The Power Of Hope!
 - Or - How God Uses His Hope In Our Lives!
 - He Offers Us His Hope To Bless Us & To Keep Us Looking To & Longing For:
 - The Fulfilment Of All Our Hopes In Heaven Someday!
3. Tonight - We Are Going To Explore Together:
 - The Properties Of Hope!
 - That Is - The ***Kind*** Of Hope That Every Christian Has:
 - In Christ!
 - We Are Going To See How The Bible Answers:
 - The Question - “What Is Our Hope Like?”
 - In The New Testament - We Find 6 Descriptions Of Our Blessed Hope:
 - Which Make It The Only Hope We Will Ever Need!

* First Description:

1. ***Our Hope Is An Enlivening Hope!***
 - See This In 1 Peter 1:3-5:
 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, / To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, / Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!”
 - So - What Kind Of Hope Do We Have As Christians?
 - It Is A “Lively” Hope!
 - A Living & An Enlivening Hope!
 - And So - We See From This:
 - The Reality Of Our Living Hope!
 - It Is A Real & Living Hope!
 - This Is The Kind Of Hope That We Need Today:
 - And The Only Kind Of Hope That Really Helps – Especially Through The Storms We Will Face In Our Lives!
 - **IE:** We Live In A “Hopeless” Generation!
 - Seen In Suicide Rates - “Suicide Is The 10th Leading Cause Of Death In The United States. Each Year 44,193 Americans Die By Suicide. And For Every Suicide, There Are At Least Another 25 Attempts. On Average There Are 121 Suicides Per Day - With Another One Occuring About Every 12 Minutes!”
 - Only God Can Offer Us Real Hope!
 - A Living Hope!
 - Hope That Is Not Empty / Frustrating / Deceptive / False! (Hiebert) - Also See:
 - The Reason For Our Living Hope!

- 1:3 - "By The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ From The Dead!"
 - ***Our Hope Enlivens Us:***
 - ***Because Jesus Is Living For Us!***
- Remember 1 Corinthians 15:19-20 - "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. / But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept!"
 - It Is The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ:
 - That Makes All Of Our Hopes Possible!
 - ***If Jesus Is Dead – Our Hopes Are Dashed!***
- And So - Our Hope Is An Enlivening Hope:
 - Because Jesus Himself – The Person Of Hope:
 - Is Alive!
 - John 14:19 - "Because I live, ye shall live also!"
 - This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - As Christians!
 - An Enlivening Hope!

* Second Description:

2. *Our Hope Is An Excellent Hope!*

- This Is Found In Hebrews 7:19:
 - "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God!"
 - So - What Kind Of Hope Do We Have As Christians?
 - It Is A "Better" Hope!
 - A Better & A More Excellent Hope Than Anyone Else Has Ever Had!
 - How Can This Be?
 - It Is A Perfecting Hope!
 - "For The Law Made Nothing Perfect!"
 - Which Means The Old Testament Mosaic Law & System In All Of Its Forms!
 - Though Instituted By God, It Was Never Designed To "Perfect" Or Bring His People To Perfection / Completion!
 - Instead - As We Learned From Paul's Letter To The Galatians:
 - The Law Was Only Meant To Reveal To Us Our Desperate Need For A Savior:
 - Because We Can't "Perfect" Ourselves By Ourselves!
 - Galatians 3:22-26 - "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. / 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. / 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. / 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. / 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus!"
 - So - Our Hope In Christ Is Better:
 - Because It – Rather ***He*** – Is The Only One Who Can Perfect & Complete Us!
 - Through His Life / His Word / His Holy Spirit In Our Lives!
 - It Is A Presenting Hope!
 - "By The Which We Draw Nigh Unto God!"
 - Ever Since The Fall - There Has Been A "Mighty Gulf" Between Every Person & God:
 - A Gulf Of Sin - And There Was Nothing We Could Do To "Draw Nigh" To God:
 - No Matter How Hard We Tried!
 - Hebrews 10:4 - "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins!"
 - Hebrews 10:11 - "And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins!"
 - But When Jesus Both Offered & Became The Sacrifice For Our Sins:
 - Our Hope In Him:
 - Is What Brings Us Near To God!
 - 1 Peter 3:18 - "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit!"
 - And In The Words Penned By William Newell:
 - Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
 - Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!
 - Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span

At Calvary!

- And So - Our Hope Is An Excellent Hope:
 - Because Jesus Himself – The Person Of Hope:
 - Is Excellent!
 - 1 Peter 2:7 - “Unto you therefore which believe he is precious!”
 - Excellent! Worthy Of Honor!
 - This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - As Christians!
 - An Enlivening Hope!
 - An Excellent Hope!

* Third Description:

3. Our Hope Is An Extensive Hope!

- See This In Colossians 1:3-5:
 - “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, / Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, / For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel!”
 - So - What Kind Of Hope Do We Have As Christians?
 - It Is A Hope That Has Been “Laid Up For You In Heaven!”
 - “Laid Up!”
 - The Term Used For “Laid Up” – “Denotes Just How Precious & Valuable Our Hope In Christ Is! It Is A Treasure, An Inheritance, A Kingdom, and Riches Of Glory!” (John Gill) – So - It Has Been “Laid Up”:
 - For Your Security!
 - Just Like A Treasure!
 - **IE:** Several Years Ago - Traveled The Outer Banks Of North Carolina - Looking At Lighthouses
 - Went As Far As You Could Go - Ocracoke Island - Where It Was Said That The Pirate Blackbeard Buried His Treasure!
 - Why Bury It? For Security! So No One Would Steal It From Him!
 - And The Reason To Keep It So Secure:
 - Was Because Of Just How Valuable The Treasure Was To Him!
 - Our Hope Is So Extensive & Valuable, It Needed To Be Secured In Heaven Itself!
 - Your Hope Is Also “Laid Up In Heaven”:
 - Because Of Your Status!
 - Just Like An Inheritance!
 - **IE:** Worked At Bank With Several People Who Received Inheritance From Parents / Grandparents! Money Was In The Bank Other Investments That Were Secure!
 - Why Not Spend It? Why Save It?
 - Because Of The Love & Relationship They Had!
 - And Our Hope Is So Extensive Because Of The Love & Relationship You Have With God Through Christ! Son / Daughter Of God!
 - And So - Our Hope Is An Extensive Hope:
 - Because Jesus Himself – The Person Of Hope:
 - Is Extensive & Precious & Valuable!
 - He Is Like The Treasures He Described In His Parables In Matthew 13:44-46!
 - “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. / Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: / Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it!”
 - This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - As Christians:
 - An Enlivening Hope!
 - An Excellent Hope!
 - An Extensive Hope!

* Fourth Description:

4. Our Hope Is An Expected Hope!

- See This In Romans 8:24-25:
 - “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope

- for? / But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it!”
 - So - What Kind Of Hope Do We Have As Christians?
 - It Is A Hope By Which We Are “Saved!”
 - “For We Are Saved By Hope!”
 - This Means That We Are Saved:
 - When We Believe That Jesus Has & Will:
 - Fulfill All Of His Promises To Us:
 - In The Gospel! Like:
 - Hope In The Promise Of Forgiveness!
 - Forgiveness & Pardon From Your Sin!
 - Hebrews 8:12 - “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more!”
 - Hope In The Promise Of Freedom!
 - Freedom From Captivity To Sin & Death:
 - And The World / Flesh / Devil!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:57 - “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Hope In The Promise Of Fellowship!
 - Fellowship With God Forever In Heaven!
 - 1 John 1:3 - “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ!”
 - And So - Our Hope Is An Expected Hope:
 - Because Jesus Himself – The Person Of Hope:
 - Is Our Expectation!
 - This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - As Christians:
 - An Enlivening Hope!
 - An Excellent Hope!
 - An Extensive Hope!
 - An Expected Hope!

* Fifth Description:

5. ***Our Hope Is An Everlasting Hope!***

- See This In 1 Corinthians 15:19:
 - “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable!”
 - So - What Kind Of Hope Do We Have As Christians?
 - It Is A Hope That Extends Beyond “This Life Only!”
 - Which Means That It Is An Everlasting Hope!
 - And It Is Based On:
 - The Reality Of Christ:
 - And The Resurrection Of Christ!
 - Can There Really Be Any “Hope In Christ” If Jesus Is Not Alive? No! Because:
 - If There Was No Resurrection:
 - Then We Would Be Living A Lie!
 - And - Because So Much Of What Jesus Promises To Us:
 - Is Yet In The Future!
 - ***Our Hope In Christ Is Inextricably Linked To The Life Of Christ!***
 - And So - Our Hope Is An Everlasting Hope:
 - Because Jesus Himself – The Person Of Hope:
 - Is Everlasting!
 - Paul Describes Him In 1 Timothy 6:15-16 As - “The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; / Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen!”
 - This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - As Christians:
 - An Enlivening Hope!
 - An Excellent Hope!

- An Extensive Hope!
- An Expected Hope!
- An Everlasting Hope!

* Sixth & Last Description:

6. *Our Hope Is An Encouraging Hope!*

- See This In Romans 5:3-5:
 - “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; / And patience, experience; and experience, hope: / And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us!”
 - What Kind Of Hope Do We Have As Christians?
 - It Is A Hope That “Maketh Not Ashamed!”
 - Which Means That It Is An Encouraging Hope!
- It Will Never Deceive You!
 - Because It Is The Truth!
 - **IE:** Lies Often Bring Shame! Consider Last Year & The Lies Told By Different Candidates! Had To Quickly Cover Up & Spin! Why? Shame!
 - But If Your Hope Is In God’s Truth:
 - It Will Never Cause You Shame!
 - Because He Will Never Cause You Shame!
- It Will Never Disappoint You!
 - Because It Will Be Fulfilled!
 - **IE:** When People Fail You - Often Leads To Shame! Think Of Failure Of Adam & Eve & The Shame It Brought!
 - But If Your Hope Is In God’s Faithfulness:
 - It Will Never Cause You Shame!
 - Because He Will Never Cause You Shame!
- And So - Our Hope Is An Encouraging Hope:
 - Because Jesus Himself – The Person Of Hope:
 - Is Encouraging & A Blessing!
 - He Is Our “Blessed Hope!”
 - And He Will Never Deceive / Disappoint / Cause You To Be Ashamed!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have As Christians:
 - An Enlivening Hope!
 - An Excellent Hope!
 - An Extensive Hope!
 - An Expected Hope!
 - An Everlasting Hope!
 - And An Encouraging Hope!
2. This Is The Kind Of Hope We Have:
 - Because This Is The Kind Of Savior We Have!

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