

Hebrews 6.17

Refuge of Hope

We have been considering the refuge offered to us by God, it is a sure and certain promise, and offer that cannot be outdone... but it is also an offer that is not yet manifest to us. It is an offer of hope. This hope matters and it is important that we understand its nature and purpose so that we might gain the comfort that it promises in all of our difficulties. It is this hope that makes the refuge a sweet haven of rest in times of trial, it is this hope that secures our days when nothing makes sense. When we fly to the refuge of Christ, it is hope that we cling to, and hope that sustains us through all our days.

I. ITS NATURE

- A. Future - it is the nature of hope that it is "not yet", whether we speak of eternal or temporal, the very word "hope" implies that you do not yet possess what is promised, and therefore you HOPE...

Jeremiah 31:16–17

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord: “Refrain your voice from weeping, And your eyes from tears; For your work shall be rewarded, says the Lord, And they shall come back from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷ There is hope in your future, says the Lord, That your children shall come back to their own border.

B. Hidden –

Romans 8:24–25

²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

C. Living

1Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

D. Blessed -

Titus 2.11-14

E. Good and precious

2Thessalonians 2.16-17

1Peter 2:6

*⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,
“Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect,
precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means
be put to shame.”*

F. Sustaining

Lamentations 3.21-24

II. WHAT IT MEANS TO US

A. It comforts us in trials

Lamentations 3.25-33

B. It steadies our lives

- 1) These days are ordained and therefore they are important
- 2) Remember that God has purpose in our sorrows
- 3) God has an end in sight for the trials, they are never just meaningless cruelties
- 4) His purposes will ALWAYS be worth the difficulties, always be worth the hardships.

C. It keeps us from despair

Psalm 119.49-50

D. It is sure and steadfast, nothing can ever destroy it

- 1) Having this perspective will allow us to ride on the storms of life, although the ride may be rough, the craft is sure and we are safe in Him.

III. ITS SOURCE AND POWER

- A. It is anchored to the very promise of God
- 1) Our hope is not the imaginations of men
 - 2) It is not based on our ideas or circumstance
 - 3) It is not based upon the word of other men, as weak and powerless as ourselves
 - 4) It is not fallible, God's promise NEVER fails
- B. It is made of things eternal
- 1) A crown of righteousness

2Timothy 4:8

⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

1Peter 5:4

⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

- 2) The hope of a place in heaven

John 14:1–3

¹ “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- 3) An inheritance, undefiled , incorruptible that does not fade away

1Peter 1:4

⁴ *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

- C. It is purchased and guaranteed by the precious and blessed blood of the lamb

1Peter 1.17-21

IV. IT CALLS TO US

- A. Rejoice in it

Romans 12.9-13

B. Cherish it

Isaiah 33.5-6

C. Remember that hope will always meet challenges, but we are called to cling to hope regardless of them; God will prove His promises and they will be sure that your hope proves precious and steadfast.

D. Do not ever cast it aside for some shiny bauble thrown out by the enemy

- 1) The lies of the enemy are instant gratification
- 2) They are temporal trickeries