

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • TV173B

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“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Job asked this question one time; *“if a man die shall he live again?”* He continued: He said, *“There is hope for a tree.”* If you cut a tree down there is hope that it will sprout again. When the root or the stump looks like there is no life in it at all and the tree has been cut down, yet if water gets to the root; it may grow again.

Job goes on and he says, *“But when man dies he wastes away; he goes back to the dust.”* Life is gone. Really, can he live again? If a man dies will he live again?

Well, the Word of God plainly teaches that we will live again. Listen to some of these Scriptures:

In **Isaiah 26:19**, Isaiah said; *“the dead shall live, the dead shall live; together, with my dead body, shall they arise.”*

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Daniel Chapter 12 says, *“Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life and some to everlasting shame and contempt.”*

In the **Book of Acts**, the apostle said; *“There will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.”* So, the Bible says that man will live again.

Then, when our Lord Jesus Christ was walking on this earth, he raised three people from the dead: He raised Lazarus who had been dead several days. He raised Jairus’ daughter and he raised the widow’s son. Of course, Christ himself arose from the tomb.

When the women went that morning to anoint the body of Christ, they were met at the open tomb by an angel who said, *“Why seek the living among the dead; he is not here, he is risen.”*

Paul said, *“If Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you there is no resurrection of the dead? But I say unto you; if Christ be not raised then the dead rise not. If Christ be not raised, our preaching is in vain and your faith is vain, and we are false witnesses of God and those who have perished, trusting in Christ, will never live again.”* But, Christ is raised up!

I know and I am certain and positive that we shall live again. We don’t die like animals. We are going to live again. The Scripture says that *“God breathed into man the breath of life and he became a living soul.”*

Now, the body gets disease and the body dies and the *“body goes back to the dust from whence it came. The soul goes back to God who gave it.”*

God made man from the dust of the earth and He breathed into that shell, that body, (or whatever you want to call it), the breath of life. Man became a living soul and he is going to continue to be a living soul.

His body may die and be buried but his soul goes back to God who gave it. The resurrection of the dead is no problem with me at all; that is not the problem; that is not what I am discussing today. I believe the dead shall rise and I think most of you do.

But, what concerns me in this hour is this; what will be my state in the day of resurrection, what will be my state, what is my hope of having part in that first resurrection? That is what I am interested in.

Paul said that. He said, *“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”* I want to be raised and I want to be raised in His likeness and I want to be raised to His glory and I want to spend eternity in His presence, not separated eternally from God.

Do I have a good hope? I’m talking to myself and I hope you are asking yourself; *“examine yourselves whether you be in the faith. Give diligence to make your calling and election sure.”*

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The resurrection doesn't concern me; my part in the resurrection concerns me. I believe the dead shall be raised. I believe the dead shall live. I believe like Isaiah, Daniel, Amos, and all the rest of them that there is going to be a day of resurrection that the sea will give up the dead and death and hell will deliver up the dead and all men shall live again.

But, I want to have a blessed hope of being raised in His likeness. I want to know that God is going to "*change my vile body into the likeness of his glorious body.*"

Now really, in all honesty, is not that the goal of all religion, whatever the religion is, is not that the goal of all religion to live forever in happiness and eternal glory? Is that not the goal of all religion?

Then, tell me honestly; is not that the end of all faith? Isn't that why we believe? I know that we believe God and we believe Christ, but is not life after death why we believe (free from disease, free from pain, free from death, free from darkness, and free from separation)?

Is that not the end of faith, the salvation of our soul? That is what Paul said; "*The end of your faith (or the goal of your faith) is the salvation of your soul.*"

I will admit it freely, in honesty; that is the end of faith. I want to obtain it if possible, the resurrection of the dead. I want if possible to be like Christ. I want if possible to live forever in his presence. I want if possible to be a joint-heir with the Son of God, if at all possible.

Is not that the reason for searching the Scriptures? Is that not why we read the Bible and preach the Gospel, in order to lay hold on eternal life? Is that not what Paul said two or three times in his writings to Timothy, "*lay hold of eternal life; lay hold of eternal life?*" Don't let go of eternal life.

Is not that your reason for listening to this program today? There's probably something more entertaining I'm sure. Is that not your reason for listening?

If we died like animals, if we ceased to exist, would there be really any point to life at all? Now, be honest with me, would there be any use even continuing, without any hope of eternal life? Would there be any use?

Why not put a gun to your head and end it all if there is not any hope of life eternal. If only in this life, if we have hope, Paul said; "*we are of all men most miserable.*" I'm interested in that.

Where can we find some answers? I want some answers; I want some for myself, I want some for the church of which I am pastor. I want some for you who listen to this telecast. I want some answers. Where shall I look for life, hope, health, and assurance?

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Where shall I look? The answer comes back: Look to God, look to God. God is the source of life. God is life and light; *“in him there is no darkness or death.”* All right; look to God, but how shall I look for God? Where shall I find God?

Well, you might say, *“the heavens declare the glory of God.”* I know that the heavens declare his glory, but not his grace. Well, you say; *“look to God; ‘the firmaments show his handiwork.’”* I know that, but not His redemptive work.

When I look at the firmament, when I look at the earth, when I look at all things around, I see the marks of death, not life. I see what I see in myself, a dying person, I see dying trees and dying flowers and dying people.

Well, *“God is understood by the things that are made.”* I know that and it is true, His eternal power and God-head but not His saving mercy and covenant grace. I have to look somewhere else.

Where shall I find the answer? You say, *“Look to God.”* All right, I will look to God but where am I going to find God? I’ll tell you where to find God; there is no other place to find God and that is in His Word.

In His Word you will find the answer to every question regarding life, judgment, death, and eternity. You will find the answer to every question regarding redemption, righteousness, and the resurrection. You will find the answer to every question concerning salvation, security, and sanctification; it is all right there in His Word.

I’m telling you this; that’s the only certain place; that is the only sure place; that is the only infallible source. Any other source in voices, visions, or dreams, feelings, emotions, or sentiment; even people, preachers, and teachers will deceive you.

God won’t deceive anybody. He has no reason to; it is not in His character to deceive. He said; *“I am the Lord; I change not; I am the Lord.”* He is holy; *“he is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.”* He never changes.

The prophet said in **Isaiah 8:19**; *“direct the people to the Word of God.”* Where shall people go to find their God? Shall they go to wizards that peep? Shall they go to fortune tellers? Shall they go to those who read the mind and the palm?

Direct them to the Word of God and if the preacher who is preaching is not preaching in accordance with the Word; listen to **Isaiah 8:20**: *“It is because there is no light in him, (no dawn, and no morning).”*

The rich man in hell, our Lord said; *“he lifted his eyes and he cried, father Abraham; send Lazarus to the earth to warn my brothers less they come to this terrible place.”*

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Abraham said to him; by the authority of the Master; *“they have Moses and the prophets. They have the Word of God; let them hear the Word of God.”*

“Oh, but he said; father Abraham; they won’t hear the Word of God. But, if someone arose from the grave and appeared on earth, they would repent, they would hear.” Abraham said, *“If they hear not the Word of God they will never be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”*

Lazarus was raised from the dead. I don’t read of any great revival taking place in Bethany where he lived. Jairus’ daughter was raised from the dead and I don’t hear of any great revival in Capernaum where she lived.

The widow’s son was raised from the dead but I don’t read of any great revival taking place there in the funeral procession as they passed down the road to bury a man who wasn’t dead. Our Lord arose from the grave and the very men who had cried for his death paid the soldiers to lie and say that He was not raised.

The Word of God; direct the people to the Word of God. That is where we will find some answers. My friends, if we would have a hope, a good hope, a true hope, and a sure hope of eternal life, we must go to the Word of God. This is where it is found.

If you have your Bible, turn to **Colossians 1:27**. This is Paul’s subject for hope, a good hope: **“WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?”** That is the title of this message: **“WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?”**

Paul says this; listen to **Colossians 1:27**: *“Christ in you; that is the hope of glory.”* This is the hope of glory; there is no other hope. *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord. There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* This is our hope. Christ is our hope.

This was Job’s hope. **Job** is said to be the oldest Book in the Bible; (I don’t know) but Job said this those many years ago; *“I know that my redeemer liveth and he shall stand in the latter days upon this earth and I shall see him myself, not another, with these eyes. Though worms destroy this body; I am going to see my redeemer.”* That is my hope, a person.

This was David’s hope. He said, *“The Lord is my shepherd. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, he is with me. His rod and his staff comfort me. He preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever, forever.”*

This was Simeon’s hope when he held the child Jesus in his arms there in the temple in Jerusalem. He lifted his eyes to heaven and he said, *“Lord; now lettest thy servant depart in peace; these eyes have seen your salvation.”* That is the hope of glory.

This was John’s hope. He said, *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew*

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he (Christ our hope) shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

This was Paul's hope. My text says in **Colossians 1:27**: "*To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*"

If you have time, (I wish you would take it, if you have the interest, I hope that you do), if you have the patience, we will carefully weigh these words in our text and we will see if we can find out what Paul is talking about.

Paul spoke with such confidence. He spoke with such assurance. He spoke with such strong dogmatism, "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" Let's see if we can find out what he is saying.

First of all: He says, "*The hope of glory is Christ.*"

It is not a religious profession. It is not the law. It is not my good works, it is not human merit, but it is Christ; He is "*the hope of glory.*"

Let's go back a few verses. Take your Bible and turn to **Colossians Chapter 1**. Just back up a few verses, while Paul identifies this person, Jesus Christ:

We ought not to be found placing our hope in "*another Jesus*" and we ought not to be found trusting the Jesus of some man's imagination. We don't want to be found trusting in the Jesus that they have hanging on the walls everywhere that looks like Wild Bill Hickok, you know.

We want to trust the Christ of the Bible. Let's see what the Bible says about that:

First of all: back in **verse 13**, this Christ who is the hope of glory, this Christ, Paul says in **verse 13**: "*He is God's dear Son;*" He is God's dear Son, or He's the Son of God's love.

We are not speaking of a mere man. We are not speaking of a mere prophet. We are not speaking of a mere messenger; we are talking about God's dear Son, the Son of his love. God said; "*this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*"

Secondly: Not only that, look at **verse 14**: He is not only God's dear Son but He is our Redeemer. Listen to **verse 14**: "*In whom we have redemption.*"

He bought us back. What do you do when you redeem something? Well, you go down and pay the price, whatever the price is on that object, you pay the price, you buy it and it is yours and you ransom it.

You give the man the money and he gives you the object that you bought. Christ redeemed us, He bought us from the law which had a claim on us. He bought us from the justice of God which

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

had a demand on us. He bought us out of bondage, paying the debt. You are not your own, “*you are bought,*” Paul said; *you are bought with a price.*”

Thirdly: He redeemed us, not only that, (through His blood), but also we have in Him, “*the forgiveness of our sins.*”

That is what we are talking about, “*Christ in you the hope of glory.*” This Christ is God’s dear Son. This Christ is our Redeemer.

Fourthly: Not only that; look at **verse 15**: This Christ “*is the image of the invisible God.*”

The Lord Jesus is not Joseph’s Son. He is not the illegitimate son of a German soldier (like that fellow wrote years ago); He is the virgin born Son of God who is the image, the very likeness, the exact likeness of the living God, the visible revelation of the invisible God; it is Jesus Christ.

The disciple said; “*Show us the father.*” He said, “*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, I and the Father are one.*” I make no bones about it; He is God Almighty in human flesh.

“*He was in the world and the world was made by him and the world knew him not. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth.*”

He was the exact image, the exact likeness of the living God that walked on this earth. That is who we are talking about.

Verse 16: He is the Creator of all things. “*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.*”

Heaven was made by Him and all of its powers, visible or invisible. The angels were made by Him and they worship at His feet. The world was made by Him, for Him, through Him, by Him, and “*by him all things consist.*” All creatures were made by him. He is the Creator.

Not only that, **verse 18** says; He is the head of the church. “*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*”

My friend, “*the church,*” is all the redeemed of all ages. He is the beginning of the church, He is the root of the church, He is the “*first born from the dead that in all things he might have the preeminence,*” not the pastor and not the bishop, not the cardinal, and not the priest, not the pope, and not anybody else.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The church only has one head and that is Christ, and that is Christ the Lord. He is the head of the church and the church is the body and you are all brethren.

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

“Don’t call any man master,” Christ said. *“Don’t call any man rabbi; don’t call any man father, you are brethren.”* One is your Master and one is your Father and we pray to Him, *“our Father.”*

You don’t call anybody else, “holy father;” there is but one Holy Father and He sits on the throne of glory and Christ is the exact image of His likeness, of the heavenly father.

Not only that, **verse 19**: *“It pleased God that in him should all fullness dwell,”* all life, all truth, all grace, all love, all righteousness.

All things are in Christ by the decree of God, by the design of God, and through His death on the cross, all that comes from God to men, all that God will do for men or make of men, is in Jesus Christ. That is where it is and God put it there; God put it there and it pleased Him to do it.

In **verse 20** Paul continues to tell us about this Christ *“who is the hope of glory.”*

Through his obedient life, **verse 20** says; *“having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”* He imputes to us a perfect righteousness. Through His sacrificial death on the cross, *“he reconciled us to God.”*

There is peace with God in Christ. *“Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* He hath reconciled us to God by His death. *“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”*

Outside of Christ none of those things are available to any son of Adam; it is all vested in Him. You will come to Christ or you will never come to God. You will find Christ your refuge, your rock, your strength, and your hope, or you will never know the living God. *“He that hath the Son hath life. He that hath not the Son of God shall never see life.”*

If you are in the faith of Christ, if you continue in the faith; this is what **verse 22-23** says, *“In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.”*

He has reconciled us to God by His blood. He has presented us holy and unblameable through His cross if; that’s a big, little, word, one of the biggest words there is, just two letters, but oh how weighty; He hath reconciled us to God. He has presented us to God in His body, through His blood, *“if you continue in the faith (that is what it says), and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel which hope is Christ.”* The Gospel of Christ is the hope of glory, the person of Christ is the hope of glory.

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Wait a minute; I can't quit until I get to this little two-lettered word. There is a very important little two-lettered word right on in our text in **Colossians 1:27**; "*Christ in (i-n) you, the hope of glory.*"

It's not Christ in the covenant that is the hope of glory; (stay with me, will you listen)? There is a covenant; any man who wants to know anything about redemption has got to know something about covenant mercies.

You study theology which is called the "study of God." You have to study covenant; God made a covenant with Adam, He made a covenant with Noah, He made a covenant with Abraham, He made a covenant with Moses, He made a covenant with Israel, and He made a covenant with David.

He talks about the covenant in the **Book of Hebrews** about the "*surety of the everlasting covenant, the blood of the everlasting covenant.*" There's a covenant of mercy, "*this is my blood in the new covenant. This is my body in the new covenant.*" He's talking about the last will and testament, our covenant of grace; it is only enforced after a man dies.

But it is not Christ in the covenant that saves us, it is Christ in you, Christ is the hope of glory. There is a blessed, everlasting covenant, in which Christ Jesus the Lord has been given a people, of which He is the Surety and His blood is the payment. But it is not Christ the Surety that is our hope it is Christ in you that is our hope of glory.

It's not Christ in the Scriptures. I know that Christ is in the Scriptures. Moses wrote of Him; "*Abraham saw his day.*" He is the theme of Scripture but it is not Christ in the Scriptures that is my hope, though without Christ in the Scriptures I would have no hope.

It's not Christ in the manger, though He was born of a virgin, though He was made flesh, though He dwelt among us, though He walked on the earth, but it is not Christ in the manger that is my hope of glory.

It is not Christ in the world, though He lived a perfect life, obeyed the law in our behalf, secured for us a perfect righteousness. Nor, is it even Christ on the cross that is the hope, or my hope of glory.

Though He was "*wounded for my transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace was upon him and by his stripes we are healed,*" but Christ on the cross is not my hope of glory, but rather Christ in me, that is the hope of glory.

He is on the cross and He died for somebody; He redeemed somebody. He is going to have a people. It is not Christ in the tomb, my scapegoat that is my hope of glory. It's not even Christ on the throne, though there is "*one God and one mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus.*"

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

It's not Christ on the throne that is my hope of glory. My hope of glory and your hope of glory, if it is a sure hope, a certain hope, and a good hope, it is **Christ in us**, that is the hope of glory.

Christ has always been in the covenant. He is in the covenant whether God saves or damns. Christ has always been the Creator. Christ has always been the virgin-born revelation of God. Christ has always been "*the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.*"

My friend; if I have a hope of life eternal and a hope of resurrection, and a hope of being made like Christ, there is going to have to be a life of faith, a heart of faith, a reception of Christ by faith, He has to come into the heart, He has to dwell in the heart.

This is what the Scripture says. Paul said, "*God who separated me from my mother's womb and called be by his grace was pleased to reveal his son (to me)?*" No sir; "*in me!*"

What is Christ in you? It is Christ believed in the mind. "*I believe the record that God hath given concerning his Son.*" I believe it. It is a revelation that God has made.

He doesn't work apart from the mind. I know that faith is by the heart and through the heart but not apart from the understanding. "*God hath given us an understanding.*" Christ has come and "*this is the true God; this is eternal life.*"

I believe Christ in the mind and then I receive Christ in the heart. "*To as many as received him, to them gave he the privilege of becoming the sons of God.*"

Oh, how one day; men may scoff now, they may laugh now, and they may ridicule now, but oh, how one day they will wish they could hear a sermon, a truthful message from the Word of God, that would carry with it some hope of glory.

When all glory is gone and all hope of glory is gone and like the drowning man reaching out for just anything, even a straw, how he would long to hear a sermon that tells us something about the hope of glory. It is Christ received by faith in the heart.

It is Christ loved in the soul. "*If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema, (be a- accursed).*" It is Christ experienced in His power, the peace of Christ, the joy of Christ, the rest of Christ that floods the person.

Somebody said that you could cut into a believer's mind and you will find thoughts of Christ. You could cut into his heart and you would find love for Christ. You could cut into his will and you will find a submission to Christ.

Then, this Christ in you is Christ followed in perseverance. He is our love, He is our life, and He is our hope. We are under new management. We are new creatures in Christ Jesus; we belong to Him.

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

COLOSSIANS 1:27 • HENRY T. MAHAN

“Christ in you; (it is not Christ and your denomination it is Christ in you. It is not Christ and your creed), Christ in you; that’s the hope of glory.”