

There Is One Hope
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Introduction:

1. At the present time we are studying a series of lessons designed to help us know the truth concerning the 7 subjects listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. To know the truth on these subjects we must follow the Lord's instructions found in John 8:31-32.
3. We have covered 2 of these subjects -- the "*one body*" and the "*one Spirit*."
4. Today we are focusing our attention on the "*one hope*" mentioned in vs.4.
5. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. In some passages the Bible refers to "hope" in a general sense.
 1. In general, "hope" is the expectation of something good in the future.
 2. Illustration:
 - a. (1 Corinthians 9:10) "*He that ploweth should plow in hope.*"
 - b. When a farmer plows, he expects to reap a harvest in the future.
 - B. Ephesians 4:4 is more specific -- it mentions the "*one hope of your calling.*"
 1. From Paul's request in Ephesians 1:18 we understand that we can know what this hope is.
 2. A number of passages identify the "*one hope*" as eternal life in heaven that Christ will give to His faithful followers when He returns.
 - a. Colossians 1:3-5
 - b. Titus 1:1-2; 2:13
- II. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES THOSE WHO HAVE THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. According to Ephesians 2:11-12, those who are outside of Christ have no hope [as illustrated by the jailer in Acts 16:25-27].
 - B. Thankfully, the Lord has made it possible for us to be born again so we can have the "*one hope.*"
 1. See Titus 3:3-7.
 2. Notice the change that took place when the jailer was born again -- he gained the "*one hope*" that he did not have before (Acts 16:28-34).
 - C. When we enter the "*one body,*" we gain the "*one hope.*"
- III. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. (Romans 12:12) "*Rejoicing in hope.*"
 - B. (1 Peter 1:13) We are to prepare our minds so we can "*hope to the end.*"
 - C. (1 John 3:2-3) The "*one hope*" will lead us to be pure.
- IV. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES CERTAIN BENEFITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE "*ONE HOPE*"
 - A. See Hebrews 6:17-19
 1. The "*one hope*" is "*an anchor of the soul.*"
 2. It will prevent us from drifting away.
 - B. See Romans 8:18-25
 1. (vs.24) "*We are saved by hope.*"
 2. The "*one hope*" will help us to exercise patience while we wait for eternal life to become a reality.

Conclusion:

1. In general, "hope" is the expectation of something good in the future.
2. The "*one hope*" is receiving eternal life in heaven when Christ returns.
3. A small glimpse of heaven is given in Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5.
4. See Revelation 22:14, 17.