

Hope

Introduction:

1. In addition to "faith," "hope" is an important subject (1 Corinthians 13:13).
2. By studying a number of passages, especially several in Romans 8, we can understand why hope is such an important subject in Christianity.
3. Although the Bible speaks of hope in a general sense, we are concentrating on passages that relate to the hope of "*eternal life*" (Titus 1:2; 3:7).
4. Let us begin our study by showing that . . .

Discussion:

- I. ONLY CHRISTIANS HAVE TRUE HOPE
 - A. The hope of eternal life is available to everyone; however, only certain people have it.
 1. Those who are outside of Christ have no hope (Ephesians 2:11-12).
 2. Thankfully, God has provided a way for man to be justified (Romans 5:6-10).
 3. We learn from Romans 6:3-7 how a person gets into Christ.
 4. Something very special occurs when a person is baptized into Christ (Romans 8:1; 1 Peter 1:3).
 - B. These principles are illustrated in the conversion of Saul (Acts 9:6-9, 18-22).
 1. Before he became a Christian, Saul's actions indicate that he was very troubled.
 2. After becoming a Christian by being baptized into Christ, he had a blessed hope.
 3. Only Christians [those who have been baptized into Christ] have the hope of eternal life.
- II. HOPE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN KEEPING CHRISTIANS SAVED
 - A. We learn from Romans 8:18-23 that Christians suffer like everyone else while waiting for the resurrection.
 - B. Caution must be exercised because sufferings can cause a child of God to lose hope and fall away from the Lord (Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21).
 - C. According to Hebrews 6:19, the Christian's hope is both "*sure and steadfast*."
 - D. By maintaining his hope, a child of God can face unpleasant experiences with "*patience*" (Romans 8:24-25; 5:3-5).
- III. INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP CHRISTIANS MAINTAIN THEIR HOPE
 - A. Christians are assured that present sufferings are not worthy to be compared to future glory (Romans 8:18; Proverbs 13:12).
 - B. Christians are assured that God works providentially on behalf of His children (Romans 8:28).
 - C. Christians are assured of help from the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27) and Christ (vs.34).
 - D. Christians are assured that God loves His children (Romans 8:35, 38-39).
 - E. Through Christ, God's children can be "*more than conquerors*" (Romans 8:37).