



## **Lesson Four: Things for which We Can Hope—The Future.**

**Introduction.** We are considering some things the Bible teaches for which Christians can have hope. In our previous lesson we looked at promises and blessings that grant hope to the faithful child of God. In this lesson we look to the future and what the Bible teaches regarding hope the disciple of Christ can have in those things that lie ahead.

### **I. Future Hope in Times of Darkness.**

- A. At the time when God was bringing judgment upon the Israelites in Judah God expressed hope for the faithful after their time of exile.
  - 1. In these dark days God promised Israel “a future and a hope” (Jer. 29:9-11).
  - 2. Those who wept were promised “hope” in their future (Jer. 31:15-17).
- B. In the context of these very words, the Lord gives the promise of a “new covenant” that would bring forgiveness of sins in Christ (Jer. 31:31-34).
  - 1. Because of this new covenant in Christ Christians too may set our hope in the “things set before us” (Heb. 6:16-20).
  - 2. This hope is an “anchor” for the soul, sure and steadfast. Like the hope promised to the Israelites during the exile it can grant us hope and security for our future (Heb. 6:19).
  - 3. Even when we may face the darkness of tribulation or the burden of sin, in Christ His people can have hope for what lies in their future, whether it be their future on earth or their ultimate hope in heaven.

### **II. The Future for the Child of God.**

- A. The child of God has hope in life after death.
  - 1. This hope will not be “cut off” (Prov. 23:17-18).
- B. The child of God has hope in the resurrection.
  - 1. Paul (with the Pharisees) hoped for the resurrection (Acts 23:6; 24:15).
  - 2. Christians should hope for that glorious change that will come to us at the judgment (1 John 3:2-3; cf. Rom. 5:1-2).
- C. The child of God hopes for eternal life with God in heaven.
  - 1. In one sense the Christian now has eternal life (1 John 5:11-13), but until it is fully realized we cling to the “hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:1-3; 3:4-7).
  - 2. Christians have a hope “laid up” for them in heaven (Col. 1:3-5).
- D. The child of God hopes for salvation from sins in Christ.
  - 1. We are to hope for God’s salvation (1 Thess. 5:6-10; cf. Ps. 119:166).
- E. Because of these wondrous promises the child of God hopes for Christ’s coming.
  - 1. For the Christian Jesus’ coming is a “blessed hope” (Titus 2:11-14).

**Conclusion.** The glorious things that lie in store for faithful Christians in the future give great reason for hope in even the darkest times. No matter what the child of God must face those who stay true to their sound confession of hope in Christ will never be disappointed. In our next lesson we will consider some benefits the Bible promises to those who rest their hope in Christ.

### Discussion Questions

1. Dark times in life can often cause people to abandon hope. Can God's words to Israel offering them "a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:9-11) teach Christians anything about how to avoid this in our own lives? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The Hebrew writer describes the hope of things "set before us" and "anchor for the soul" (Heb. 6:18-19). List some things that anchor does for a boat: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how hope in Christ can accomplish for our soul what an anchor does for a boat: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the wise man mean by declaring that hope in a "hereafter" will not be "cut off" (Prov. 23:17-18)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the context of Paul's declaration in Acts 23:6 that he had hope in the resurrection of the dead? \_\_\_\_\_  
What happened after he made this statement? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In the denominational world the charge is often made that if someone is not absolutely confident in his or her salvation the person does not have enough faith. Does Paul's claim that Christians cling to the "hope of eternal life" (Titus 1:1-3; 3:4-7) teach us anything about this charge? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain Paul's wording that Christians have a hope "laid up" in heaven (Col. 1:3-5): \_\_\_\_\_

7. The Hebrew writer described hope as an "anchor" for the soul (Heb. 6:19). How does describe the "hope of salvation" in writing to the church in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 5:6-10)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain what this teaches us about hope: \_\_\_\_\_

8. In what sense can the coming of Christ be seen as a "blessed hope" for Christians (Titus 2:11-14)? \_\_\_\_\_

