

Hope

Hope is a commonly used word in modern English. It is also often found in our KJV bible, as well (152 times). However the meaning of *hope* in the Bible and the meaning of the word as it is used in normal conversation today are quite different—and the difference is great and very significant.

Today when men talk about *hope* they refer to something that *may* or *may not* happen. For example, many people, foolishly spend money for lottery tickets. They *hope* that the series of numbers they have purchased will be selected as the winning combination, making them an instant millionaire. Very, very few people however, have this hope come true for them. Millions upon millions of people have their *hope* disappointed twice a week when the lottery numbers are drawn. For this world, *hope* is only a possibility—it might be a strong possibility or it might be a very uncertain possibility, but there is never any assurance that what a man *hopes* will or won't happen today, will ever take place.

With our blessed God, the *hope* He gives believers is far different and infinitely wonderful. Another has said that our God's *hope*, the *hope* we often read of in the Bible, is a *deferred certainty*. For example, the coming of the Lord Jesus is set before Christians as *our blessed hope*. It is absolutely sure and certain that the Lord Jesus will come to take His beloved church home to Himself. We don't know when that might take place, but He has promised to come for us and so what we hope for is certain to happen.

Only those who know and love the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour can have and enjoy this kind of *sure hope*. The following are but a few verses from the Word of God which show the wonderful blessing of God-given hope for those who love Him.

*“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose **hope** is in the LORD his God”* (Psa. 146:5).

*“It is good that a man should both **hope** and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD”* (Lam. 3:26).

*“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”* (Col. 1:27)

*“In **hope** of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”* (Titus 1:2).

*“And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of **hope** unto the end”* (Heb. 6:11).