

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

February 20, 2012

Issue No. 30 Mark Aites, Editor

Hope

"There is no medicine like hope." - O.S. Marden

"While I breathe, I hope." - Anonymous

"Hope is the poor man's bread." - Thales

"Hope is the dream of a waking man." - Pliny the Elder

What would life be without hope? It is hope that sustains us and keeps us going. It gives us something to look forward to. Terrence once wrote, "While there is life, there is hope." How depressing to think of a life where there is no hope, no expectation of future joy.

Charles Allen once wrote, "When you say a situation or person is hopeless, you are slamming the door in the face of God." His thoughts imply that God is the source of hope. How true, for Scripture affirms that our hope is in the LORD (Psa. 31:24).

Don't you just love the hymns that we sing that speak of the hope that springs from our hearts? "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness," "Whispering hope, O how welcome Thy voice," or, "Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away." Aren't these hymns fantastic? We add to it those as we sing of the beauties of heaven; "Sing to me of heaven, let me fondly dream, of its golden glory, or its pearly gleam," or, "Earth holds no treasures but perish with using, however precious they be; yet there's a country to which I am going: Heaven holds all to me."

Sometimes our lives seem dreary because we don't focus on the hope that we have in Christ for an eternity in the presence of our God. And yet our Bibles are given to site Scripture after Scripture of the hope that is so precious to the Christian.

The apostle Paul wrote of "the hope which is laid up for you in heaven" (Col. 1:5). To the church at Colossae, he wrote "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). To the young preacher Titus he wrote, "In hope of eternal life" (Titus 1:2). The Hebrew writer wrote of the hope which is "the anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:19). The apostle Peter wrote of a "living hope" (1 Pet. 1:3). Writing of the return of our Lord, the apostle John added, "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:3).

Hope should serve then as a motivation for us to strive to do our best for the Master. Yes, we long for and hope for the day that we can be with our Lord.