

# Hope in God's Providence



## *Hope in God's providence*

Hope is not just a neighbourhood in the town of Providence County, Rhode Island. U.S.A.

Providence was settled at a time when people looked for the hand of God in human affairs.

Hope is a grace gift from God to strengthen His children as He works out His providence for our good and His glory. Without a living hope the overcoming Christian life is impossible. Like faith, hope comes from God. Hope is needed because we are perfected in an evil world. The religious, economic and political roots of Babylon's evil deception as the alternate world power apart from God are already growing around us today.

Human history shows the outworking of the will of God through His providence in judgment and salvation for the world.

Hope is the assurance of God that He will complete what He has begun to do in us to take us home to heaven to be with Him. God is the God of hope. Hope comes from God just as His love does. Rom 15:13

Having celebrated the New Year, I was just wondering what the hopes and dreams of most people at this time of year. Good health, growing prosperity, better employment, happy family holidays, etc. It is almost universally that all the things that are wanted are from the world.

If we were to ask Christians what their hopes were, we would find them to be generally of the same kind as everybody else. But is this what being a Christian ends up meaning? Where should the Christian's expectation be, where should they find hope and meaning? No one mentioned seeking to do the will of God.

It is natural for the man of the world to look for hope in the world, because that is where he resides, this is his home, he is of the world. But where does the Bible says the Christian is to place their hope?

### **Hope is where the heart seeks its treasure**

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for*

*yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Matt 6:19-21

The world doesn't need God's heaven, because the world wants to make its own heaven on earth. Everything that interests man is about enhancing man's experience on earth. For most people, Christians and non Christians alike, the desired hope is in the world. The happiness being sought is worldly comfort and pleasures; all the things they desire are in the physical world, every New Year resolution carries the hope of a future worldly desire.

Hope is the twin sister of faith. Without hope there is no faith, and without faith there is no hope. Faith looks back to the cross, hope looks forward to heaven. True hope motivates for a life consistent with the will of God.

If we don't have faith and hope we don't have the God of all hope. If we are not looking for the hand of God we live for the world.

Our sovereign God uses His providence (does His work) in the world of darkness to work for our good, but gaining the most benefit from His work requires we have a living hope. This means we must be using the grace gift of hope God makes available for our benefit.

This hope is for the favoured children of God so we can give thanks in all things as we look to God in all things. Following are 50 verses about hope for the Christian.

**Hope overflows from the joy and peace of believing in God.** *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Rom 15:13

**Hope is not wishful thinking.** *'For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?*

Rom 8:24

**Hope is what others cannot see.** *but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.*

Rom 8:25

**Hope is for protection.** *But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate*

*of faith and love, and as a helmet, the **hope** of salvation.* 1 Thess 5:8

**Hope is for a heavenly home.** *because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.* Col 1:5

**Hope is for righteousness in Christ.** *For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the **hope** of righteousness.* Gal 5:5

**Hope is for Christ Himself.** *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Saviour, and of Christ Jesus, who is our **hope**.* 1 Tim 1:1

**Hope is for Christ to live in us.** *to whom God willed to 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

**Hope is a living hope in Christ.** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living **hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

**Hope is a resurrection hope.** *Paul began crying out in the Council, “Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the **hope** and resurrection of the dead!”* Acts 23:6

**Hope is the promises given to Israel.** *And now I am standing trial for the **hope** of the promise made by God to our fathers; the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this **hope**, O King, I am being accused by Jews. Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?* Acts 26:6-8

**Hope is through the promised Holy Spirit.** *Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Rom 15:13

**Hope is for the inheritance of the saints.** *so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the **hope** of eternal life.* Titus 3:5-7

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.* Eph 1:18  
*so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the **hope** of eternal life.* Titus 3:7

**Hope is for eternal life.** *in the **hope** of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.* Titus 1:2

**Hope is for eternal glory.** *that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and*

*generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to 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 1:26-27

**Hope is transformed into the likeness of Christ.** *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this **hope** fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

1 John 3:2-3

**Hope is for purification in Christ.** *looking for the blessed **hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

Titus 2:13-14

**Hope is in the living God.** *For it is for this we labour and strive, because we have fixed our **hope** on the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of believers.*

1 Tim 4:10

**Hope exults in the glory of God.** *We exult in **hope** of the glory of God.*

Rom 5:2

**Hope is Christ Himself.** *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of*

*God our Saviour, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope.*

1 Tim 1:1

**Hope seeks godliness.** *'For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labour and strive, because we have fixed our **hope** on the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of believers.*

1 Tim 4:8-10

**Hope isn't for earthly riches.** *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their **hope** on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*

1 Tim 6:17

**Hope is for the appearing of Christ.** *looking for the blessed **hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Christ Jesus.*

Titus 2:13

**Hope is for Christ's inner presence.** *that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to 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 1:26-27

**Hope comes by enduring through suffering.**

*'Through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in **hope** of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, **hope**;* Rom 5:2-4

**Hope doesn't disappoint.** *and **hope** does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* Rom 5:5

**Hope knows the creation was subjected to futility.** *not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in **hope**.* Rom 8:20

**Hope is in Christ.** *We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.* 1 Thess 1:2-3

**Hope gives patience.** *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of **hope** until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.* Heb 6:11-12

**Hope is Christ exalted in life and death.** *according to my earnest expectation and **hope**, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*

Phil 1:20

**Hope looks to the promises from God.** *We who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the **hope** set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil.'*

Heb 6:18-19

**Hope is abiding in Christ in His kingdom.** *'Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our **hope** firm until the end.'*

Heb 3:6

**Hope shows great boldness in speaking of our faith.** *Therefore having such a **hope**, we use great boldness in our speech.*

2 Cor 3:12

**Hope is a virtue of the Christian life.** *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, **hope**, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Cor 13:12-13

**Hope gives birth to love.** *since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you*

*have for all the saints; because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.* Col 1:4-5

**Hope produces joy and peace** *rejoicing in **hope**, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer.* Rom 12:12

**Hope seeks purification in Christ.** *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed **hope** and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Christ Jesus.*

Titus 2:11-13

*Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this **hope** fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* 1 John 3:2-3

**Hope anticipates Christ' inheritance.**

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,* Eph 1:18

**Hope secures life in the midst of life's storms.** *“This **hope** we have as an anchor of the*

*soul, a **hope** both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil.”* Heb 6:19

**Hope is “one hope” for the righteous.** *‘There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one **hope** of your calling.’* Eph 4:4

**Hope is not a dead issue.** *be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.’*

1 Peter 1:3-4

**Hope is for the praise of the glory of God.** *to the end that we who were the first to **hope** in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.*

Eph 1:12

**Hope holds fast to the end.**

*but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house— whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our **hope** firm until the end.*

Heb 3:6

*And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of **hope** until the end,*

Heb 6:11

*so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken*

*refuge would have strong encouragement to take  
**hold** of the **hope** set before us.* Heb 6:18

*This **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, a  
hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters  
within the veil,* Heb 6:19

*Let us hold fast the confession of our **hope** without  
wavering, for He who promised is faithful;*

Heb 10:23

**Hope means:** understanding disappointments that come in a world lost in darkness.

**Hope means:** we will see our trials and tribulations from a better perspective.

**Hope means:** heaven is the only worthy goal.

**Hope means:** we will be reminded we serve the Lord of heavenly hosts.

**Hope means:** we will keep our eyes on the crown that awaits the faithful.

**Hope means:** will give us concern for those who are going the wrong way.

**Hope means:** turning away from the world.

**Hope means:** living from a heavenly perspective.

**Hope means:** The quality of life we live on earth should no longer govern our hope.

**Hope means:** The fullness of the kingdom to come and our hope in Christ has become the only reason for living.

**Hope means:** that whatever our Father allows into our lives is for our greatest good and our glory to come when Christ comes again.

**Hope means:** we can be contented even in the darkness of the world as we live for God, because we know we have a heavenly home.

**Hope means:** Understanding our future changes everything in how we live in this present darkness.

**Hope means:** we can count all things as loss that we may gain Christ and the crown of righteousness.

**Hope means:** we make heaven our goal, and taking up our cross to follow Christ is not feared.

**Hope means:** we look for the way to please God and hasten the coming day of the Lord.

**Hope means:** we live to glorify God in all things so we can enjoy Him forever.

**Hope means:** we know our Father will strengthen us with spiritual power as we do His will.

**Hope means:** will want to have the attitude of Christ.

**Hope means:** we grow in holiness.

**Hope means:** everyone we know, especially the troublesome ones, God has placed there for our good.

**Hope means:** every difficulty is an opportunity to overcome pride and grow in Christ.

**Hope means:** we thank God for every time our goodness is tested to make sure that it's more than skin deep.

**Hope means:** we already have the victory by abiding in Christ.

**Hope means:** we thank God that He loves us so much that He won't leave us incomplete.

**Hope is a virtue we cannot live without.** Therefore, it is only when we live in hope that we can give thanks in all things, that we can rejoice always, and we can pray God's will be done without ceasing.

Many who claim Christ have lost their understanding of where our ultimate destiny and home really is. Many are concerned more about making this world a better place to live in and forget the Bible's reminder, *"Here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come."*

Heb 13:14

The general lifestyles of many who call themselves Christian suggest the physical world is their home. They may be Christianised not converted. However, while we live in a world dominated by sin, God's judgment is on the world so that the world as it is in opposition to Him will be destroyed.

*The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 2 Thess 1:8-9*

### **Where is your hope?**

The question is do you live for the world, or for the kingdom of God? Was your New Year hope earthly or heavenly focused? Did you remember to seek God's will?

There are only three options for where our hearts live. (1) Both earthly and spiritually dead, and separated from God. (2) We have compromised our life of faith by wanting to have a foot in the world and a foot in heaven.

(3) Or we live for the kingdom of God and our Christ to the glory of God.

If we are to do all things as unto the Lord as we should, we must live according to the hope that awaits us with the coming of Christ. Which means living for the kingdom of God according to the teaching of Christ while strenuously resisting any thoughts of the compromise with the world.

Having invested our hope in Christ means we accept that behind everything we do will be the desire to enhance the kingdom of God both now and hereafter. This is the prayer of the Lord. Christian hope is future hope.

### **Thank God for His providence**

*That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.*

Isaiah 45:6-7

Hope is not so much concerned with the current state of affairs in the personal life, but with future outcomes concerning eternal life.

Since suffering in this life will advance the kingdom of God, (Co; 1:24) then it is also for our glory in Christ. The road to glory is paved with the tears of believers solidified by suffering with the Lord our God.

The Lord Jesus taught us to put our hope in God and leave our cares for the world behind. *“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

Matt 6:25, 33-34

## **God works all things for our good**

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Rom 8:28-29

We need to live for a new heaven and a new earth; this is the hope that leads to holiness. We need to see our home is really in heaven even while we struggle in the darkness of the world of evil.

Hope accepts the experience of evil as that which is allowed by God for our good under the constraints of His providence, simply because it is used to perfect our souls when we choose to overcome evil in Christ. Without evil causing pain and struggle there wouldn't be any desire for holiness. However, since there is evil, there is also the opportunity to do good. Hope for a future in heaven motivates the soul to resist evil and do good.

The presence of evil is a benefit for Christians because it is the opportunity to grow in holiness. The existence of good means there is also the existence of evil, except in heaven. Without evil there wouldn't be any need for faith or hope. But evil is with everyone. For some it is judgment and for others it results in joy. Many claim to want everything to be good, forgetting that no one who walks on earth is all good. Furthermore, the not good in

man doesn't want to struggle for holiness, but would rather remain in the darkness.

The essence of evil is the rejection of God. (Rom 1:18-23) Hope that is placed in the world is turning against God and has no desire to live for God and resists attempts to be led into the light. However God has allowed this evil and used it to achieve His will. Nothing happens without God's will because He works all things according to the counsel of his will. (Eph 1:11) All things mean all things, and His will is that His children be transformed into the image of Christ.

Having a living hope in God's will secures us in the truth so that no amount of evil can separate us from the love of God. Rom 8:38-39

Since God allows evil to exist, He does it because He also requires holiness from everyone; which means He is using evil to bring judgment on the disobedient and to cause us to shun evil and develop a living hope for His righteousness, now and hereafter.

Accepting God is sovereign and works all things according to His will means we can

understand that when we suffer, we suffer with Christ for the perfecting of our souls in holiness according to God's will. It means we can know we are going from tribulation to the Triumph of the Lamb according to His will. It means we will humble ourselves and let God be God according to His will.

Having a valid hope is important because we must enter heaven through many tribulations. (Acts 14:22) We are being perfected now, but the new heaven and earth is still to come when we will be like Christ. 1 John 3:2

Without hope for the fullness of the kingdom of God to come to us in Christ, the only other option is to place your hope in the world and suffer the eternal judgement of God.

*But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.*

2 Pet 3:13-14

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your **hope** completely on the*

*grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* 1 Peter 1:13

Christ is our hope and our glory. *But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defence to everyone who asks you to give an account for the **hope** that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.* 1 Peter 3:15

We are predestined in God's providence to be His servants to the praise of His glory.

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **rejoicing in hope**, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.* Rom 12:9-13

Abide in Him and rejoice in hope as He works out your holiness in the power of His providence. *Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.* Psalm 96:1

# **Living Water Resources**

## **Come to the River**

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