



## The Christian's Secure Hope

Message by Arthur Crane 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020



Hebrews 6:19

**We have this hope as an anchor, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus has entered on our behalf,**



Jeremiah 50:6

**My people are lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray, causing them to roam the mountains. They have wandered from mountain to hill; they have forgotten their resting place.**

Matthew 9:36

**When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.**

At a funeral I attended last week at Taipa in the far North, the minister shared this most precious verse – 1 Thessalonians 4:13 which contains the words:

**“...we do not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope.**

Think about it. What is **hope**?

- Hope presumes that we want something that we don't have at the moment.  
Romans 8:24 **“But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?”**
- It presumes that life can be an obstacle course and is not always smooth sailing.
  - “I hope we get rain soon.”
  - “I hope Jack gets home soon. It's getting dark.”
  - “I hope we don't have any more violence.”
  - “I hope people buy my book. I've invested a lot in it.”
  - “I hope s/he gets well soon.”
  - “I hope they are safe. They're so late.”
  - “I hope I pass. I did work hard.”
- Hope is about the future; a future which we do not know.  
**“Life is lived forwards and is understood backwards.”** Anonymous

- Since the future is unknown it is the Christian's hope that brings an element of peace and security. But why does the Christian's hope bring such security?

**There are at least five reasons why a Christian has a secure, certain and confident hope.**

They give the Christian's hope a foundation, substance and identification, and can be used as "hooks" on which to hang our thoughts.

**1. The SOURCE of this hope is Christ himself.**

Colossians 1:27 **To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

It is a glorious hope having its origin in Christ Jesus. This hope is ours because Christ its source lives within the believer's heart.

Yes, our confident hope is sourced in Jesus himself.

**2. The DEGREE of this hope is that it is overflowing.**

Romans 15:13 **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The Greek word translated "overflow" is *perisseuein* which has the meaning of "super abounding, being in excess, or superfluous."

This word is also used in Philippians 1:9 where it is applied to a love which "may abound more and more". That's not just full, but overflowing by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**3. The QUALITY of this hope is that it is alive; it is living.**

1 Peter 1.3-4. **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.**

This is a result of the "new birth."

Romans 12:1 **Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**

In Acts chapter 9, Peter calls Dorcas back to life saying, "Tabitha, get up." Then he "presented her to them alive." The word alive is *zōsan*. This shows how ALIVE this hope should be; it should be alive and active, an integral part of our daily walk with the Lord

**4. This hope is SECURE because it is anchored "within the veil."**

Hebrews 6:19,20 **We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.**

Think of the most holy place in the Old Testament tabernacle where Aaron, the high priest, went once a year "not without blood." The Christian's "hope anchor" is secure in that holy place. Nothing can touch this anchor there. This is the place where the ark of the covenant was kept.

**5. The CONSEQUENCE of this hope is a personal renewal.**

Isaiah 40.31 **But those who hope in the Lord**  
**will renew their strength.**  
**They will soar on wings like eagles;**  
**they will run and not grow weary,**  
**they will walk and not be faint.**

This gives us some understanding of the nature of the glorious hope the Christian has in Christ. It is an alive, overflowing, securely anchored hope which energises the Christian to be constantly renewed and to soar above on wings like an eagle.

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