

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE BLESSED HOPE

SCRIPTURE READING:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

INTRODUCTION:

A. The Blessed Hope in Christianity refers to the glorious return or appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a confident anticipation of His second return and the Hope of being united with Him forever. This Hope is considered Blessed because it offers comfort, joy, peace, and a transformed future for those who believe. This Hope serves as a motivation for Christians to live Godly lives, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts “in this present world” (Titus 2:13).

B. Christian Quotes about The Blessed Hope:

1. “This Hope is not based on personal merit but on Christ’s sacrifice and righteousness.” – Charles Spurgeon
2. “This Hope is not a mere wish, but a certainty based on God’s Word.” – Adrian Rogers
3. “Satan hates this Doctrine of Christ’s Coming because it is a purifying doctrine. The fact of Jesus Christ’s return leads us to live a life of watchfulness, loyalty, wisdom, activity, simplicity, self-restraint, prayer and abiding in Christ.” – Sandra Jean
4. “Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the blessed hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a blessed hope, enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” —A. W. Tozer.

The return of “The Great God and Our Savior Jesus Christ” will mean ...

I. A GLORIOUS UNION (John 14:3)

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:3).

A. Christians will see Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, for the first time and be united with Him forevermore.

B. The Promises outlined in John 14:3:

1. **Promise #1** – Jesus is preparing a place for us (Believers).
2. **Promise #2** – Jesus promised to return – **“I will come again”**
3. **Promise #3** – Jesus promised that where He is we will be also.

C. Jesus is returning to take all Believers – those who have died in the faith will be raised and the living will be changed – to be taken home to Heaven (1 Cor 15:51-58; 1 Thess 4:13-18).

- “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live” (John 5:25).
- “⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28-29).

II. A GLORIOUS REUNION (1 Thess 4:17-18)

“⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thess 4:17-18).

A. The dead in Christ shall arise and we who are alive will be reunited with our loved one – family and friends – forever. “... and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (v. 18).

B. It is a joy to be a member of the Family of God.

- “Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” (Eph 3:15).
- 1. The Family of God consist of all who have Believed in Jesus in the **Past**, all who Believe in the **Present**, and all who will Believe in the **Future**.
- 2. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, the Apostle Paul assures Believers that those who have died in the faith will be brought with Christ and reunited with us forever. These verses offer words of assurance and peace that Believers who have passed away are not truly gone but awaiting a joyful reunion in Heaven.

III. A GLORIOUS BODY TRANSFORMATION (1 Cor 15:42-44, 53)

“⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: ⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Cor 15:42-44, 53).

A. Christians shall receive new incorruptible and eternal bodies.

B. The difference in corruptible bodies and incorruptible bodies:

- 1. Our earthly body is corruptible which means that it is subject to age, deteriorating, death, delay and decomposition.

2. Our resurrected bodies will be **incorruptible** which means that it will never age, die, deteriorate, decay, nor decompose.
3. The earthly corruptible body is buried in dishonor and the resurrected incorruptible body will be raised in glory (vv. 42-44).
 - **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”** (1 Pet 1:23).
The Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus Saves and Him Only. Without the Word of God, we can never fully understand the Plan of Salvation.

IV. **A GLORIOUS LIFE OF HAPPINESS** (Rev 21:4)

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Rev 21:4).

A. Christians will receive perfect joy and freedom from trials, pain, suffering, evil and death.

B. “Billy Graham often referenced Revelation 21:4, emphasizing the promise of God wiping away all tears and the absence of death, sorrow, crying, and pain in heaven. He used this verse to offer hope and comfort, highlighting that these earthly sufferings would be replaced by eternal joy and peace in God’s presence.

C. Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty In this everlasting light.

All pain and grief is over, Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace forever, Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly Trod the valley of the shade?
Oh! But Jesus’ love illumined Every dark and fearful glade.

V. **A GLORIOUS REMAKING OF THE HEAVENS AND EARTH** (Rom 8:21; 2 Pet 3:10-13; Rev 21:1)

- **“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”** (Rom 8:21)

- **“¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, ¹² Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Pet 3:10-13).**
- **“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea” (Rev 21:1).**

A. Christians shall receive a perfect world of love, joy and Peace.

B. The Remaking of Heaven and Earth – “A New Heaven and a New Earth” (Rev 21:1). This speaks of God creating a new heaven and a new earth. The new heaven and new earth signifies a complete transformation – a creation that is free from the wickedness and corruption introduced by sin.

C. The passing away of the “First Heaven and the First Earth” will end this current world of sin, suffering, and chaos. According to 2 Peter 3:10-13, the Heavens “will pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat ...” which leads to the expectation of “A New Heaven and New Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

D. Moody’s Attitude toward Heaven

Thousands came to faith in Christ through Moody’s meetings. As he approached the end of his life, he viewed Heaven as something to anticipate. Moody wrote:

“Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.”

Every Christian that has invested his life in eternity can share that attitude toward Heaven.
— (Ministry 127).

VI. A GLORIOUS REWARD

There are five crowns that Believers can receive in Heaven.

A. An Incorruptible Crown (1 Cor 9:25-27)

This crown will be awarded to Believers who demonstrate self-denial, perseverance, and faithfulness in their Christian walk. It is a reward for those who strive for spiritual victory and resist worldly temptations.

B. A Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thess 2:19)

This reward is also known as the Soulwinner's Crown. This reward is for winning souls to the Lord. We are to let the light of the Gospel of Christ shine through us to others, so they may see Christ in us (Matt 5:16). A Christ-like life is the best witness, for others are more impressed by how we live, than by what we say.

- "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Prov 11:30).

C. A Crown of Glory (1 Pet 5:4)

This reward is for the Shepherds of the Flock, who have oversight. They are to be examples to the flock. This also refers to the spiritual leaders in the Family of God.

D. The Crown of Life (James 1:12; Rev 2:10)

This reward is for those who endure the testing, (sufferings and persecutions) of life and are "**faithful unto death**" for Christ's sake.

E. The Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim 4:8)

This crown is for those who long for and anxiously await Christ's return. **Christ is Coming Back!**

- **Jesus is coming back – He may come back Today (1 Thess 4:16)**
 - 1. Are you listening for the shout? (v. 16)**
 - 2. Are you listening for the voice of the archangel? (v. 16)**
 - 3. Are you listening for the trump of God? (v. 16)**
 - 4. Are you looking for the Blessed Hope?**

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

- The truth of the return of Jesus Christ is on the lips of Christians all over the world. Jesus Christ could come back today. But even if he does not, we know He will return someday. “He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim 2:13).

VII. AN ETERNITY OF RULING AND REIGNING (Rev 22:5, 12)

“⁵ And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev 22:5, 12).

A. Christians shall receive the position and responsibility of serving Christ through all eternity.

- 1. Reign** “means to exercise sovereign power or authority, to rule as a king or emperor.” – KJV Dictionary
- Christians will reign eternally alongside Christ. Christians will share in Christ’s authority and victory.
 - “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us” (2 Tim 2:12).
 - “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev 3:21).

B. This eternal reign reflects the Christian’s victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ.

- “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 15:57).
- **Victory in Jesus, My Savior Forever**
Yes, Victory in Jesus, My Savior Forever

VIII. A GLORIOUS DWELLING PLACE AND MANSION (John 14:2-3)

“² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2-3).

A. House in John 14:2, “refers to God’s dwelling place which is also understood as a family or household.” – KJV Dictionary

B. Mansion in John 14:2, “refers to a dwelling place or room.” – KJV Dictionary

C. According to Jesus, Heaven is “My Father’s House.” It is the “Home” for the children of God. Jesus is preparing lovely mansions in glory for Believers (vv. 2-3). He has promised to return for Christians and will take us to Heaven which is His dwelling place.

D. “Heaven is a real place, a loving place, and an exclusive place. Not everybody is going to Heaven, but rather only those who have trusted in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim 2:4-6).” – Warren W. Wiersbe

MEMORY VERSE:

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor 2:9).

CONCLUSION:

A. Christians should always be expecting the return of Christ and live like those who will see Him face-to-face. Christians are commanded to “live soberly, righteously, and godly” while awaiting the return of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:12). Are you anticipating the return of Christ during your lifetime? Are you living as though Christ may return at any moment? Are you listening for the “**shout**” (1 Thess 4:16)? Are you looking forward to “**new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness**” (2 Pet 3:13).

B. If Christ is not all to you, He is nothing to you. He will never go into partnership as a part Saviour of men. If He be something, He must be everything, and if He not be everything, He is nothing to you.” – Charles Spurgeon

C. ABC’s of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)

Note:

- (1) Main Points of this Bible Study are taken from the Preachers Outline and Sermon Bible.
- (2) Main Points of Section VI – A Glorious Reward are taken from the Principles for Growth: Biblical Principles for Christian Maturity by Dr. John H. Stoll.

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).