

THE BLESSED HOPE

Beloved of the Lord:

WHAT is my hope? There is but one reply to the question - "The Lord Jesus Christ..OUR HOPE" - 1 Tim. 1:1. The PERSON OF CHRIST is my hope! Let us trace a few simple but profound truths from the Scriptures: What do they say?-

1 - I SHALL BE WITH HIM - Though loved ones have gone to be "with Christ", my supreme joy and delight in heaven will be to be "WITH HIM". This is "far better" - Phil. 1:23. I shall be "ALWAYS WITH THE LORD" - 1 Thess.4:17 JNDTrans. Never separated from HIM. What a delight it will be through endless ages to be with HIM for nothing shall come between us!

"HE and I, in that bright glory, one deep joy shall share,
Mine, to be forever with HIM, HIS, that I am there"

2 - I SHALL BE LIKE HIM - Many times I now long to be more like HIM, but when He comes, His promise of 1 John 3:2 will be true - "we shall be like him". Perfect moral and sinless likeness to my Saviour, this is my blessed hope! Blessed transformation!

"And is it so, I shall be like Thy Son?
Is this the grace which HE for me has won?
Father of glory, thought beyond all thought!
In glory, to His own blest likeness brought".

3 - I SHALL SEE HIM - Above all the heavenly and eternal glories there will be ONE supreme vision before mine eyes - THE PERSON OF CHRIST! It is written - "we shall SEE HIM AS HE IS" 1 John 3:2. NOT as HE was, but "as HE IS" - GLORIFIED! I shall see HIS FACE - Rev.22:4.

"The Bride eyes not her garment, but her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory, BUT on my King of grace".

4 - I SHALL APPEAR WITH HIM - "When Christ, our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear WITH HIM" - Col.3:4. Read 2 Thess.1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Rev.1:7; Rev.19:14. As Moses and Elijah appeared "in glory" with Him on the holy mount - Lu.9:30,31, I shall come from heaven with Him, appearing in GLORY!

5 - I SHALL REIGN WITH HIM - "the saints possessed the kingdom" - Dan.7:22. In the "new song" we will sing "we shall reign on or over the earth" - Rev.5:10. Today is the day of trial, suffering, reproach and difficulty, but when HE comes to reign it will be a day of "honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" - 1 Pet. 1:7. This is included in my hope!

6 - I SHALL SERVE HIM - "His servants shall SERVE HIM" - Rev.22:3. There will be no unemployment in heaven and eternity! No SELF-employment either; but in perfect humility, perfect devotion, perfect obedience, I shall serve HIM for ever! It will be a service without weariness, without flagging energy; one of pure love, without a flaw, and without one legal thought and without cessation!

Let the exhortation of John in 1 John 3:3 fittingly close this meditation - "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure".

"E'en now let my ways Lord, be bright with Thy praise Lord,
For brief are the days ere Thy coming again.
I'm waiting for Thee, Lord, Thy beauty to see Lord,
No triumph for me, like THY coming again"

Faithfully yours in the blessed hope,

