

THE POWER OF THE BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:13

Beloved of the Lord:

We need nothing but Christ for faith or hope. The Old Testament Saints waited for many centuries for His first coming. Their expectation ended at Bethlehem. What is the object of our hope? That He will come again! The power of our hope should manifest practical and spiritual effects in our daily life: -

- 1 - FOR WATCHFULNESS - The Lord Himself emphasized this in His ministry on the subject of His return in glory, the responsibility of watchfulness - Mark 13:37. To the saints of the Church the Apostle Paul wrote - "Let Us WATCH and be sober" - 1 Thess. 5:6; Rom. 13:11,12. We can wait for the Rapture without watching, but not watch without waiting! Keep watching!
 - 2 - FOR ENDURANCE - Paul exhorts us, that as we "wait for His Son from heaven", we are to be "serving the true and living God" - 1 Thess. 1:9,10. To be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" etc. - 1 Cor. 15:58. In the midst of world cares and disappointments which we all experience, we need the grace of endurance! Our hope is an "anchor of the soul" - Heb. 6:19 - that helps us to endure to the end. See James 5:7,8.
 - 3 - FOR COMFORT - Sorrow and death exempts no one, respects no tender human tie, but God has given to His people "good hope through grace" - 2 Thess. 2:16 - for we who believe that Jesus died and rose again, sorrow not as others who have no hope. We stand by our beloved dead and hear the precious words "them also that sleep through Jesus will God bring with Him" - 1 Thess. 4:14 - J.N.D. Trans. Read 1 Thess. 4:13-18. From this great promise, generations of Christians have found blessed comfort, even as it is written - "Wherefore comfort one another with these words".
 - 4 - FOR JOY - "Rejoicing in hope" wrote Paul - Rom. 12:12. Hope can fill our weary days with joy as well as giving endurance. This is not generally recognized, but it is so. To His believing Saints God has written that "we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" - Rom. 5:2. Our beloved Saviour "endored the Cross - for the JOY that was set before Him" - Heb. 12:2; then is it not possible for us who are bound for eternal and heavenly glory, to be "rejoicing in HOPE; Patient in trial" - Rom. 12:12.
- "The way may be rough, but it cannot be long, so we'll
smooth it with hope, and we'll cheer it with song".
- 5 - FOR STEWARDSHIP - "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" - 1 Cor. 4:2. Slackness in the discharge of our personal stewardship is a besetting danger. Each believer will give an account to the Lord (2 Cor. 5:10). Let us ponder the sobering words about our reckoning day! - 1 Cor. 3:13. The anticipation of His coming should have a refining influence on our motives in serving the Lord. It is an energizing power!
 - 6 - FOR PREPAREDNESS - There is no prophetic event explicitly revealed as necessarily taking place before the Lord comes FOR His saints. His coming FOR His saints can happen with sudden imminency - "in a moment" etc. - 1 Cor. 15:52. This fact should impart a moral power in the life of a Christian who truly believes it. We may be "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air any moment. The imminence of our final Salvation is a strong reason to live for His glory! - Read Rom. 13:11,12. Let us live in the power of this Hope! - Read Luke 12:37 and John 2:28, 1 John 3:3.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

