

# Hope in Christ!

Psalm 42 1 Peter 1:3-5 John 14:1-6

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The **death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ** is the *central teaching* of the Holy Christian Church; it is the *most important thing* in the Kingdom of God, and it is the *Gospel Good News* that brings *forgiveness of sins* and *eternal life* to every one of us!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the **foundation of our faith**, and the basis of our **hope**. Hope is confident faith; hope is the deep conviction that God will keep His promises to you.

In the Bible, hope is described as an **anchor**.

We have **hope** as an **anchor** for the soul, *firm and secure*. Hebrews 6:19

An anchor, of course, keeps a ship from drifting away by tethering it to the sea bottom. **Hope tethers you to the promises of God so that you don't "drift away" from the Lord and His Kingdom.**

Hope is described as **firm and secure**; hope is firm and secure because it is anchored specifically to the greatest promise and miracle of all time: the **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead. St. Peter makes the connection for us:

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 1 Peter 1:3**

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead is the basis of your Hope in God. The Resurrection gives you the confidence that God will keep all of His Promises. The line of thought goes like this: ***If God can keep His promise to raise Jesus from the dead, then He has the power to keep all of His other promises to you as well.*** Your hope is anchored to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! *No wonder it is firm and secure!*

*Hope is spoken of in two key ways in Scripture.*

*The first is that we have hope in God's promises now as we live our lives; and the second is that we have hope in God's promises later, after we die.*

As we live our lives now, we trust that God will keep all of His promises to us. Whatever is going on in your life, God's promises apply to you! **Your circumstances cannot change God's Promises!**

Whatever is going on in your life, the Risen Lord Jesus Christ is there with you with His power and might. You are never alone, you are never abandoned, & your life never drifts aimlessly and without purpose. The Lord Jesus promises to help you, to strengthen you, to assure you of His love, presence and power in your life! Hope tethers you to Christ, His Word, and His Promises!

**Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. Psalm 42:5-6**

Hope is the firm conviction that God will keep all of His promises to you!

**The opposite of hope is DOUBT.** Satan would love to create doubt within you.

- † Doubt means that you are uncertain of God's Promises.
- † It means that you are hesitant to trust God's Word.
- † It means that you waver in faith.
- † It means that you fail to apply God's promises to yourself.
- † Doubt is a life without an anchor.
- † Doubt is a life full of fear and uncertainty
- † Doubt is a soul that drifts aimlessly and is battered and tossed by all the worry and pain of life
- † Doubt will always lead you away from Christ and His Promises!

If you have ever struggled with doubt, then you know how empty, lonely and dangerous it can be. **Treat your doubt like sin.** If you have doubts about Christ, His resurrection, or His Promises, then repent! Turn away from your doubts. Confess them to God. Know and believe that you are forgiven! Don't invest one ounce

of energy into any word, thought or idea that leads you away from Christ and His Promises.

The resurrection of Christ gives you the strength to turn away from doubt; and to put your hope in the Lord! Spend your time in God's Word! Learn the Promises! Study the Bible! Trust the Scriptures!

## STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE.

Believe that the One who has risen from the dead speaks the truth to you. Believe that you can trust God's Word and Promises for your life! Spend your time in God's Word learning His Promises – and *not one ounce of energy* entertaining doubt.

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

**PUT YOUR HOPE IN GOD,**

for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42:5-6

The truth is that God will keep all of His promises to you! The Lord Jesus promises to help you, to strengthen you, to assure you of His love, presence and power in your life! Hope tethers you to Christ, His Word, and His Promises as you live your life each day.

**Not only has the Risen Savior given you promises in this life; but He has also given you promises after you die.**

## We believe in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting!

We have the hope of eternal life! We trust Jesus when He promised us a home in heaven. We trust God when He tells us that there is life after death. We trust that God is telling us the truth: that's hope! Here are some of the promises that give us HOPE in everlasting life:

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has **eternal life** and will not be condemned; he has **crossed over from death to life.**" John 5:24

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me **will live**, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will **never die.**" John 11:25

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and **take you to be with me** that you also may

be where I am. John 14:1-3

Christ Jesus [has] **destroyed death** and has brought **life and immortality** to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:10

As you hear and read these promises, God the Holy Spirit creates faith and strengthens HOPE within you. You believe these words, you know that they apply to you. You know that they will come true because **Jesus has risen from the dead!** Just as Jesus rose from the dead, so too, you will on the Last Day.

At the moment of death, your soul is with Christ in heaven, awaiting the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day. On that Last Day, Christ will raise your body from the dead and glorify it and you will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven in both body and soul! This is our hope! Because Jesus lives, you too will live! The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope!

## **We believe in the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting!**

We are to always be ready to talk to other people about our hope in Christ: your hope is your witness; your hope in God and His promises is your confession to the world.

Today is Confirmation Sunday for 10 of our youth. They will stand before their family, friends and the world to confess their faith and hope in God. They will boldly confess that Jesus Christ is their Savior and that He has risen from the dead. If you were confirmed, then you know how special this day is. It is a day that reminds all of us how important it is to confess our hope in Christ to the world.

You have the joy and the privilege of telling other people about the hope we have in God! God has sent you to people to tell them about Jesus Christ and His resurrection! There are people in your life who need hope: they need to know that God keeps His promises now as they live their lives; and that God will keep His promises later in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting. Like our confirmands today, be bold in your confession and tell other people about your hope in God!

**Hope is living each day with confident faith in God and His Promises.** Hope is a deep conviction, confidence and assurance in God's promises both now in this life, and even after death. Hope is an **anchor** for your soul; Hope keeps you **tethered** to Christ and His Word; Hope is **firm and secure**

because is it based on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!  
AMEN!