

Jesus Christ - Our Hope

February 22, 2026

If you ask most Christians today what their hope is, or what the hope of Christ's return is, they stare back at you with the look of more questions than answers, called "*Deer-in-the-head-lights*" syndrome. Yet, the hope of Christ's return is so tremendous, it should be on the lips of every Bible-believing believer today! Let's take a look at what this hope of Christ's return is all about.

Titus 2:13 Looking for [*expecting*] that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and also of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

This is our instruction. Expecting the blessed hope, the happy hope. It's something that we can look forward to with great joy, excitement and anticipation. *Be HAPPY about!* (*Incident of Dad coming home in the Navy*). This is how we should "look for" his coming! However, before we explore what the hope of Christ's return is all about, let's look at some of the things that the hope IS NOT! Starting with **what the hope of Christ's return is *not*** clears away most of the misconceptions *before* we ever define what it is.

1. It Is Not Fear-Driven - The return of Christ was never given to frighten God's people into believing! As **2 Timothy 1:7** states: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

All Fear does is it produces panic, speculation, obsession. Whereas hope produces steadiness, patience, and peace. If a teaching about Christ's return produces fear, it has already missed its purpose and is not Scriptural. Some people talk about hellfire and damnation as a way to "scare" people into believing the hope. This is patently ridiculous! They misuse Scripture to substantiate their own ideology and theology. The Scriptures that they use are many times verses that are not written to the us as the Church of God. Therefore, it is *wrong teaching*. This fear-tactic is nothing new. It's gone on for centuries. Fear never produces positive believing, or positive hope. The hope of Christ's return is exciting and joyful.

2. It Is Not Date-Setting or Speculation - Scripture consistently turns our attention away from calendars and charts. We are not living in the age of Aquarius when the moon is in the seventh house and Jupiter is aligned with Mars. It's not astrology which is counterfeit and a false science to astronomy). There is NO DATE that can be set for Christ's coming FOR his saints.

Acts 1:7: And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Jesus plainly stated that nobody knows when he will return. And you know what? If that is what he said, then that is what he means! God knows, and that is what counts! Nobody else knows! So, these false prophets, prognosticators, forecasters and soothsayers are simply wrong when they predict the date when Christ will return. If God wanted us to know, then He would tell us, but he hasn't told us so we don't know. Period.

The hope of Christ's return does not depend on knowing *when*. It does not require decoding world events, or the DiVinci code. It does not demand constant watching of headlines. God never asked His people to predict — He asked them to ***trust and hope***.

3. It Is Not an Escape from Responsibility - Hope does not mean disengagement from life.

1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Waiting for Christ is not quitting, withdrawing, or neglecting people or responsibilities. “Oh, I just want to live on an island where no one else is around that’s negative.” Sorry, that’s not going happen, you to have to wait. True hope produces *faithfulness*, not withdrawal and introspection.

4. It Is Not Reserved Only for the “Spiritual Elite” - The return of Christ is not a reward for a few — it is a promise to all sons and daughters of God who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Verse 11 states that the grace of God has appeared to all people. All People. *And teaches US... “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation [deliverance] hath appeared to all men...Looking for that blessed hope”* So, contrary to this being an event for the “spiritual elite,” it is for all people who believe on Jesus Christ, even the unfaithful. This hope belongs to those who confessed Jesus as lord and believed that God raised him from the dead. Not just teachers, not just scholars, and not even the strong. It includes those who are weary, those who are struggling. Everyone who is a believer needs to know the hope of Christ’s return.

5. It Is Not a Reckoning of Condemnation or Damnation - Some present Christ’s return as something to dread. However, Scripture does the opposite. It brings joy to the heart of everyone who believes. Jesus Christ paid the price for all of our sins, not just a few that we remember, or have forgotten. ALL SIN and its consequences have been dealt with.

Romans 8:1: (WT) So *there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,*

We’ve been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. To be redeemed, means that he bought us, he paid for us, so that we would be free of condemnation. He paid it all. NO DEBT REMAINING!

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

I Timothy 2:5 (WT) In fact, *there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, namely, the man Christ Jesus,* ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, the witness in its own times.

We have been redeemed. And if we have been paid for, if God bought us back from the devil’s power by the blood of Jesus Christ, then what is there to fear? It was the highest price that was paid. Therefore, there is no condemnation. So, why do we get all tied in knots thinking God is going to whack us over the head? God paid the highest ransom for all of us! As it states in **II Corinthians 6:20** “...for ye are bought with a price.” Also, like other verses of Scripture that have been mishandled, there is a verse in 2 Corinthians 5 that needs some deep investigation.

II Corinthians 5:10 (WT) ¹⁰ Moreover, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that each one may receive in return for the *things* that he did while in the body, whether good or bad.

The judgment seat: Greek: *bēma* = the official seat of a judge for legal matters or athletic events; referring to the ancient Olympic Games. This month of February was the winter Olympics in Cortina, Italy. When the athletes compete and finish in the top three spots of their sport, that platform that they stand on to receive gold, silver or bronze medals is “the bema” of those games. The only two occurrences of this word in the

epistles are regarding the heavenly judgment seat is here, and **Romans 14:10**: “for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Let’s look a little deeper here.

1 Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day [future time] shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try [prove] every man's work of what sort it is. **14** If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. **15** If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

The **foundation** is Christ. That never changes. What is examined is what we build **upon** that foundation. The use of **fire** here is a *figure of speech*, representing loss, not punishment. Fire reveals quality, as in the testing of precious metals. When fired, it removes the *dross*, or what has no lasting value. Nothing in this record suggests torment, judgment, or rejection of the believer. Notice carefully what **verse 15** says: “*but he himself shall be saved.*” Salvation is not in question. Only **rewards** are. The judgment seat of Christ does not hang over God’s children as a threat. It stands before us as a promise—that nothing done in faith is wasted, forgotten, or overlooked by God. Christ’s return does not bring condemnation for the believer, **NO MATTER WHAT!!** It brings the **completion of redemption, and our recognition as sons and daughters, and the eternal rewards.** And that is part of the blessed hope.

6. It Is Not Rooted in Uncertainty - Hope, by definition, is anchored.

Hebrews 6:19: “Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”

Let’s consider the word: **anchor**: *The ships in the lands and times of the Bible had multiple anchors. Certain anchors were used for securing and holding the ship in its desired location, while others were used for warping the ship into a port or harbor. The anchor used for warping would be lowered onto a buoy or small boat and then taken into port. After being made firm and secure that anchor would be used to pull the vessel in. There is an allusion to this practice in Acts 27:30. Here in Hebrews, the hope is referred to as “an anchor of the soul.” It is firm and secure and it is for entering behind the veil.*

When the Word of God is talking about “hope,” it is not wishful thinking. “Gee, I hope I get to heaven...” It is not optimism. It is not a “maybe.” The hope is the settled expectation we have, which is based on God’s faithfulness to what He has promised. The hope of Christ’s return was never meant to unsettle God’s children. It was meant to steady them. It does not pull us out of life — it anchors us within it. Hope settles the heart and mind of each believer.

II Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, **2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Faithfulness Has Eternal Weight – This statement puts a pin in it. If we have been faithful to God and His Word—believing, walking, serving, and standing—there is an eternal reward coming. If we choose not to believe, not to walk, or not to build with the lasting materials of God’s Word, there is loss of reward—but **never loss of sonship.** The hope of the return of Jesus Christ is something that should be burning in our hearts **all of the time!** And, it will be, if we understand what is about to happen very soon.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...**52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This is not improvement, OR a rebuilding project — However, it will be a complete transformation from corruption to incorruption, and from mortal to immortality. When a person is dead, they corrupt. While we are living, we are mortal. When Jesus Christ returns both are changed. Both are transformed.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. Death does not transition us — it is defeated. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

Here, it is briefly explained to us *why* death had power.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Victory is already secured! **58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

The days we forgive, the days we pray and operate the manifestations, and the days we give of ourselves to bless others—walking in love and faithfulness—are not lost. They are remembered by God and will be rewarded for all eternity. This is NOT a message of fear, but of triumph and expectation.. Whether living or asleep in Jesus, every member of the Body of Christ will share in that change together, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we *ever* be with him. It has no end. This is where we will pick up new bodies and live.

Philippians 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

That day that Christ returns, our bodies will be changed to be like his glorious body. A body that is not corruptible by age or wear. A beautiful body that is like the glorious body of Jesus after his resurrection.

The hope of Christ's return is not centered on death, fear, or judgment. It is the promise of transformation—new bodies, joy, and eternal reward. At His coming, the dead will be raised, the living will be changed, mortality will be swallowed up, and death itself will be defeated. Faithfulness will not be forgotten; it will be honored and rewarded. This hope stretches beyond time and into eternity. It is not uncertain or distant—it is assured. That is why God's Word calls it a *blessed hope*. **Our labor is not in vain. Jesus Christ is our hope... the anchor of our souls.**

God bless you.

