

HOPE



Have you ever wondered if there is more than one kind of hope? This seems to be a word that is used lavishly in our day to day conversation. We hope for rain. We hope that your kids are okay. We hope for the Brewers to have another great season. When we travel anywhere, we hope for a safe trip. Here in America we hope that the price of oil will drop, as the cost of oil is included in almost everything we buy or service we receive. None of these hopes are certain.

We live in a time of rapid change. From technology to transportation, from medical treatment to moral values, from energy development to educational institutions, from the ways we work to the ways we relax – things change! It can be unsettling! We want, we need, something that doesn't change. Something we can rely on! Something that will be there for us, always!

Perhaps you have hoped for something that just didn't even come close enough for you to see it realized. The story is told of a bird that had a wish that she could fill the Grand Canyon by carrying a pebble once a year and dropping it therein. Would her life-span even allow such a hope to come true? Sounds to me like a description of what eternity could be like to our small human thinking.

Some hope that their eternal home will be in heaven, but if their walk with Christ is as seldom as our little bird, once a year in worship and no study of God's word, that's not a hope I would want to count on.

A few months ago a group of us were studying the Psalms and when we read the following verses from Psalm 25, a light went on. Here are those verses:

¹ In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. ² I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³ No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous.

⁴ Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. ⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. ⁶ Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good. Psalm 25 1-7

The question was asked, "Are there two kinds of hope?" The answer is yes! The hope that we have by trusting in the Lord's promises is a hope of an outcome that we are sure will happen, not like other things we hope for in this life. Isn't this great news?

This solid hope gives us comfort, when all around us the world is changing. This is a WOW.

Your whole life here and hereafter hinges on this Hope. Cling to it with all your being.

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun, God stuck U in the name of His Son. And each time U pray, you'll see it's true, you can't spell out JesUs and not include U. You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For U; He was born; that's why He came. And His great love for U is the reason He died. It even takes U to spell crUcified. Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with U in His plan? The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew, and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U. When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention. "Go into the world and tell them it's true that I love them all - Just like I love U." So many great people are spelled with a U; don't they have a right to know JesUs too? It all depends now on what U will do, He'd like them to know, but it all starts with U.

Joseph E Stickney – July 2012
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