



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **Hope!**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:19 – If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Why did Paul say people would be miserable if there were only earthly value to Christianity? Paul argues that the resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of Christian faith. Paul's statement is a powerful affirmation of the resurrection's reality and its vital role in the Christian hope. Without it, the entire gospel message is undermined. The verse suggests that if Christians only have hope for this life, and not for an eternal life after death, they are in a worse situation than those who have no hope at all. If the resurrection is false, then the countless hardships and sacrifices Christians endure for their faith would be meaningless and would render them the most miserable people. It likely addresses the concerns and questions of the Corinthians who doubted the resurrection and the certainty of an afterlife.

Jesus' resurrection was the ultimate sign that what He said about Himself was true. Without the resurrection, we would have no reason to believe in Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:14). Peter quoted from Psalm 16:8-11, however, David wrote as a prophet speaking of the Messiah who would be resurrected. Jesus' body was not left to decay, but was resurrected and glorified. Both Peter and Paul quoted from this psalm when speaking of Christ's bodily resurrection (Acts 2:25-28, 31; 13:35-37).

David stated confidently that God would not leave him in the grave or among the dead. Many people fear death because they can neither control nor understand it. As children of God, we can be assured that God will not forget us when we die. He will bring us to life again to live with Him forever (1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). **It is ironic that people spend so much time securing their lives on earth and spend little or no thought on where they will spend eternity.** Few people understand that their only hope is in the Lord.

Sometimes we are discouraged during this Christian journey. Depression is one of the most common emotional ailments. One antidote for depression is to meditate on the record of God's goodness to His people. This will take your mind off the present situation and give hope that it will improve. Focus your thoughts on God's ability to help you rather than on your inability to help yourself. When you feel discouraged or depressed, take advantage of Psalm's 42:5 antidepressant. Also, read the Bible's accounts of God's goodness, and meditate on them.

As we face the sunset years, we recognize that God has been our constant help in the past. As physical powers wane, we need God even more, and we realize He is still our constant help. We must never despair, but keep on expecting His help no matter how severe our limitations. **Hope in Him helps us to keep going, to keep serving Him.** While we can be confident of our salvation, we still look ahead with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life, when we will be like Christ (1 John 3:2).

God embodies all truth, you can be secure in His promises; you don't need to wonder if He will change His plans. For the true seeker who comes to God in belief, God gives an unconditional promise of acceptance. When you ask God with openness, honesty, and sincerity to save you from your sins, He will do it. **This assurance should give you courage and hope.**

Peter's words offer joy and hope in times of trouble (1 Peter 1:3-6), and he bases his confidence on what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. We're called to live in the hope of eternal life. Our hope is not only for the future; eternal life begins when we believe in God and join His family. No matter what pain or trial we face in this life, we know it is not our final experience. One day we will live with Christ forever.

We now look forward to a family inheritance in the eternal city of God. **God has reserved it; it will never grow dim or decay; it will be unstained by sin.** The best part is that it is there for you if you have trusted Christ as your Savior. God will help us remain true to our faith, whatever difficult times we must face. We may have to endure trials, persecution, or violent death, but our souls cannot be harmed if we have accepted Christ's gift of salvation. We know we will receive the promised rewards, if we are faithful to the end.