

### 3. Hope (2Q 2009—Walking the Walk: The Christian Life)

**Biblical material:** Luke 21:25, 26; 1 Cor. 15:20–26; 50–55; John 5:24; Revelation 21.

#### Quotes

- Hope springs eternal in the human breast. *Alexander Pope*
- Hope may vanish, but can die not. *Percy Bysshe Shelley*
- Hope, once crushed, less quick to spring again. *Matthew Arnold*
- Hope is a waking dream. *Aristotle*
- Hope in reality is the worst of all evils, because it prolongs the torment of man. *Friedrich Nietzsche*
- Hope is a good breakfast, but a bad supper. *Francis Bacon*
- Even now I am full of hope, but the end lies with God. *Pindar*
- At first we hope too much, later on, not enough. *Roux*
- He that lives on hope will die fasting. *Ben Franklin*
- God in his very being is the future of the world. *Wolfhart Pannenberg*
- Man is, properly speaking, based upon hope; he has no other possession but hope; this world of his is emphatically the place of hope. *Carlyle*
- Hoping is disciplined waiting. *E. Hoffmann*
- My future is as bright as the promises of God. *Adoniram Judson*
- The future belongs to those who belong to God. This is hope. *W.T. Purkiser*
- The Christian hope is not a matter for tickling our minds but for changing our loves and for influencing society. *Stephen Travis*

#### Questions

Why is hope so vital to life? What happens when hope dies? Why is the Christian hope “blessed”? What is the ultimate objective in the great controversy? In what way is God ‘the God of hope’? How definite is hope? Can hope become pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by? How do we keep the present and the future together? Can we hope too much?

#### Bible discussion

Luke 21 points us to the signs of the times and to Christ’s second coming. 1 Cor. 15 emphasizes resurrection, and our part in it: “We will not all die, but we will all be transformed!” (v. 51 NLT)—in fact we “have already passed from death into life.” (John 5:24 NLT). Revelation 21 and 22 shows us the new heavens and the new earth, where God is with his people forever. Throughout Scripture the emphasis is on hope—which while concerned with the future, is what happens in the present. Without hope we are only half alive, and God—the God of hope—promises us a plan and a future for each of us. Without this future hope the present dims in meaning, but with God’s promises reassuring us that this life is not the end, we have hope for eternal life with our loving Lord. God leads us onward, challenging and encouraging us, to his incredible future!

#### Hope texts

The Lord Jesus Christ which is our hope (1 Tim.1:1). For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we wait for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently (Romans 8:25, 28 NIV).

Christ in you the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). Rejoicing in hope (Romans 12:12). We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (Romans 5:2). We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men (1 Tim. 4:10 NIV). On him we have set our hope (2 Cor. 1:10 NIV). We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:19 NIV). Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold (2 Cor. 3:12 NIV). Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). The hope that is laid up for us in heaven (Colossians 1:5). I have the same hope in God...that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked (Acts 24:15 NIV). The hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2 NIV). By faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope (Galatians 5:5 NIV). Hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13). In his [God's] 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). May the God of hope fill you...so that you may overflow with hope (Romans 15:13 NIV).

### **Comment**

Our family had spent a whole day on the beach. Five-year-old son Paul seemed to have turned into a civil engineer: the whole area of sand around us had become a major building site of dams and castles, canals and roads, lakes and bridges.

How happy he was as he surveyed his completed work. "Look Daddy," came the proud voice, "Look at all I've made." And of course I told him how good it all was. For it really was something to see--the product of a whole day's hard work.

"I hope we can come back again tomorrow! Can we, Daddy? I really hope we can..." And of course we could. But next day on the beach there was nothing of that great empire to be seen. The tide had wiped away every trace. Not a castle remained, not a single bridge. All gone. You should have seen Paul's face. Surprise, confusion, disappointment--all at once.

"Where has it all gone, Daddy? I was hoping to make it even bigger today. I was really looking forward to it."

And then the tears, and the hard explanations. So much for our human hopes. Like sandcastles on the beach, swept away without trace by the incoming tide. Hopes for achieving this or that, for making something enduring, for being powerful, famous, even worshiped. Tomorrow comes, and all these vain ambitions have vanished as completely as a beach washed clean by the surging sea. Both father and son learned a lesson together, looking at that smooth, unbroken sand shining in the morning sun.

No human hopes are worth hoping in. Promises are not worth the paper they are written on. Desires cannot last. Hopes die like fading flowers, turning to dust and ashes. Dust to dust, ashes to ashes: without God there is absolutely no hope. But with God? Ah, then! He is the only hope in a world of hopelessness.

### **Ellen White Comments**

Living power must attend the message of Christ's second appearing. We must not rest until we see many souls converted to the blessed hope of the Lord's return... The message for this time is positive, simple, and of the deepest importance. We must act like men and women who believe it. Waiting, watching, working, praying, warning the world--this is our work. {Ev 219}

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