

1 Peter 3.13-22 – *What is Hope?*

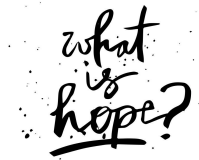
Autumn Sermon Series in 1 Peter

1 Peter 3.13-22

what
is
hope?

Revd Matthew Dietz

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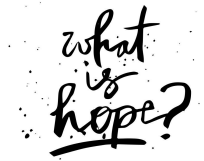
¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.'

¹⁵ ***But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give **the reason for the hope that you have**. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience,*** so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

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¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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Is this getting any closer to the Christian understanding of **HOPE**?

Google search results for "what is hope?". The page shows the word "hope" with its phonetic transcription /həʊp/ and its classification as a noun and verb. Red arrows point from external text to specific parts of the search results:

- One arrow points to the first definition of "hope" as a noun: "a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen."
- Another arrow points to the second definition of "hope" as a noun, labeled "archaic": "a feeling of trust."
- A third arrow points to the first definition of "hope" as a verb: "want something to happen or be the case."
- A fourth arrow points to the synonyms for the verb definition: "expect, anticipate, look for, wait for, be hopeful of, pin one's hopes on, want; More".

Is this *really* the Christian understanding of **HOPE**?

There must be more to **HOPE** than this!

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The Biblical definition of **HOPE** is **'confident expectation'**

HOPE is **'a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown'**

The screenshot shows the homepage of gotQuestions.org. The main content area features a question: "What is the Christian's hope?". Below the question is a subscription form for the "Question of the Week" with an "Email Address" field and a "Submit" button. To the right of the question is a sidebar with "This week's Question of the Week:" and "What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?". Below the question and answer is a list of navigation links: "CRUCIAL ?'S", "AUDIO / MP3", "RANDOM PAGE", "CITATION", "ONLINE SURVEY", "GOT BOOKS?", "CONTACT US", and "SERVE WITH US".

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Question: "What is the Christian's hope?"

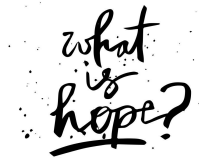
Answer: Most people understand hope as wishful thinking, as in "I hope something will happen." This is not what the Bible means by hope. The biblical definition of hope is **'confident expectation.'** Hope is a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown (Romans 8:24-25; Hebrews 11:1, 7). Hope is a fundamental component of the life of the righteous (Proverbs 23:18). Without hope, life loses its meaning (Lamentations 3:18; Job 7:6) and in death there is no hope (Isaiah 38:18; Job 17:15). The righteous who trust or put their hope in God will be helped (Psalm 28:7), and they will not be confounded, put to shame, or disappointed (Isaiah 49:23). The righteous, who have this trustful hope in God, have a general confidence in God's protection and help (Jeremiah 29:11) and are free from fear and anxiety (Psalm 46:2-3).

The New Testament idea of hope is the recognition that in Christ is found the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises (Matthew 12:21, 1 Peter 1:3). Christian hope is rooted in faith in the divine salvation in Christ (Galatians 5:5). Hope of Christians is brought into being through the presence of the promised Holy Spirit (Romans 8:24-25). It is the future hope of the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:6), the promises given to Israel (Acts 26:6-7), the redemption of the body and of the whole creation (Romans 8:23-25), eternal glory,

This week's Question of the Week:
What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

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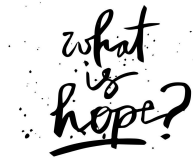
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Who is Peter writing to?

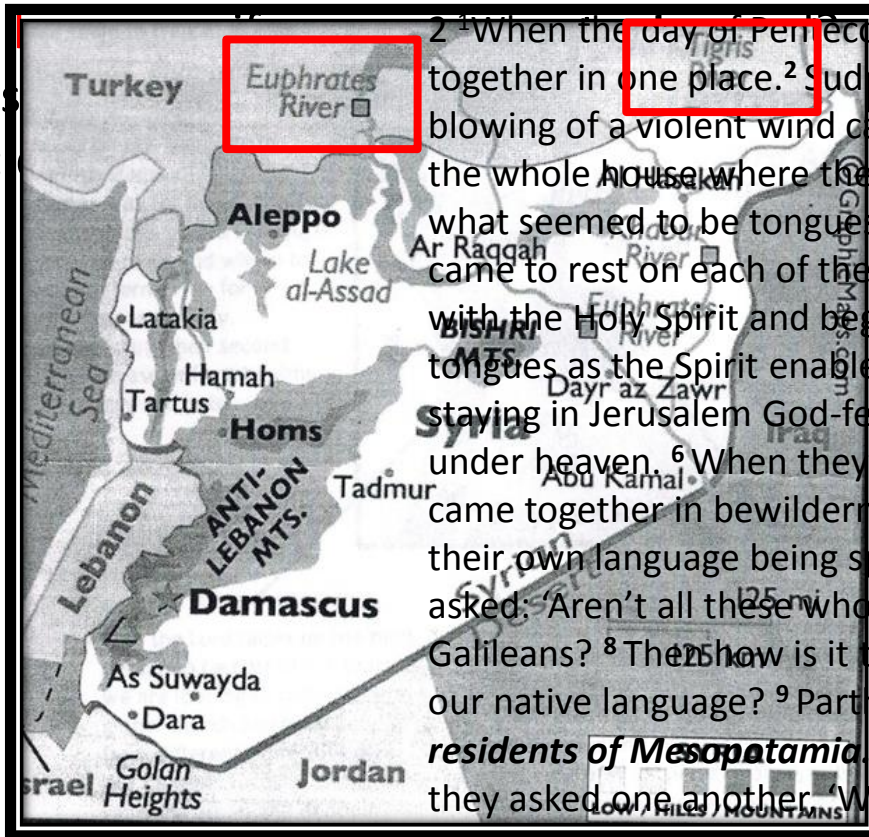
‘To God’s elect, exiles, scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood’ 1 Peter 1.1

- the hurting, the homeless, the helpless – those in harm’s way...

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13 Who is going to
14 But even if you
fear their threats;



2¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?'⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; **residents of Mesopotamia**...¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'

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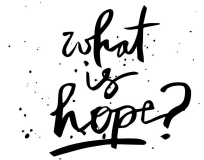
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...an answer to
ANYONE WHO ASKS YOU...

Always **BE PREPARED** to give...

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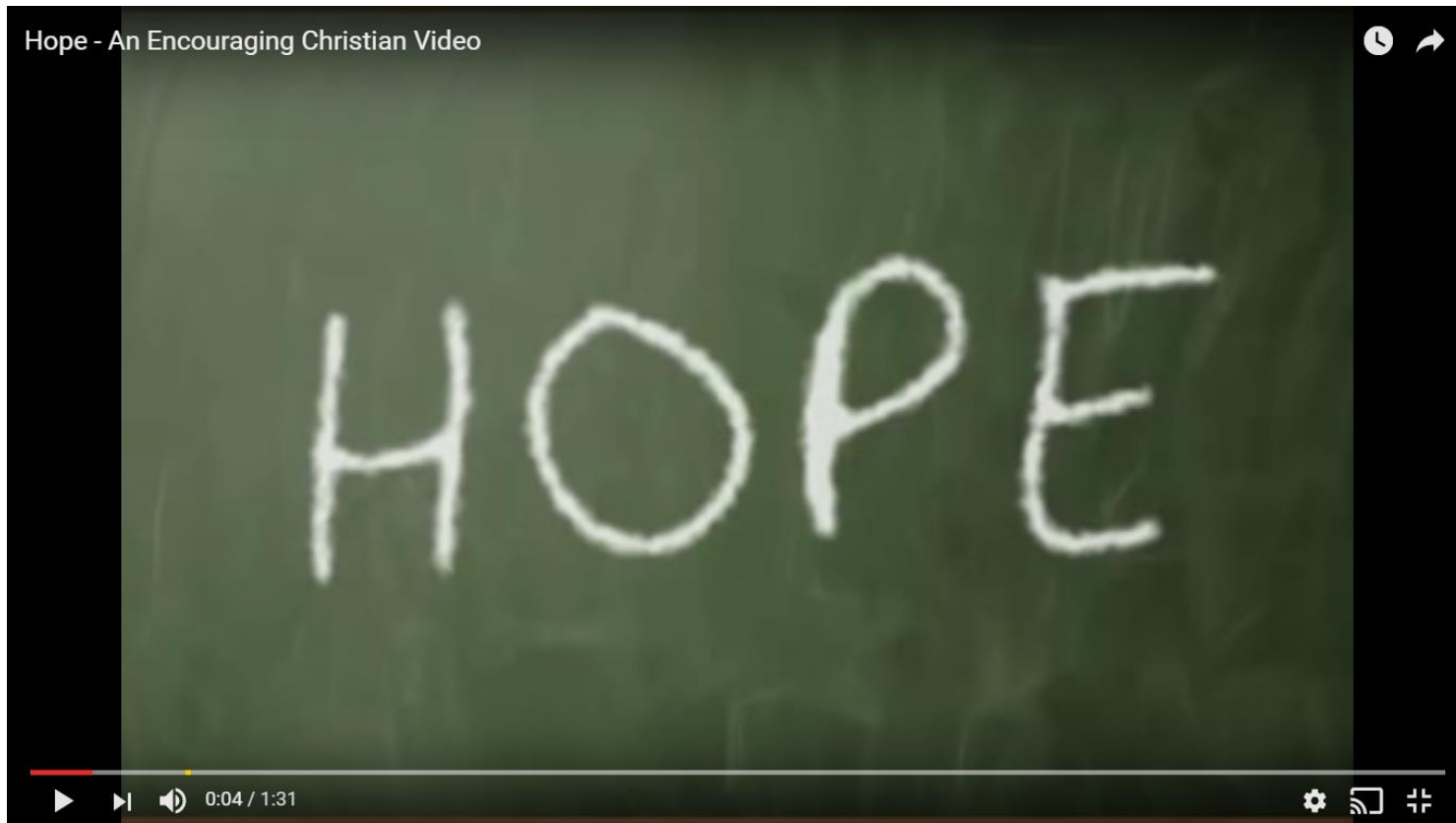
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