

B. H. Carroll: "The relation between the New Testament Christ and prophecy is that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. To him give all the prophets witness. All the scriptures, the law, the prophets, and the psalms, testify of him. And we are fools, and slow of heart to credit adequate testimony when we distrust any part of the inspired evidence." Contributed by E. W. Lucas

On self

A rejection, or in Scripture's strong language, a crucifixion of the natural self is the passport to everlasting life. Nothing that has not died will be resurrected. C. S. Lewis

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

42. Q. But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall, at their death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day (Luke 16:23, 24; Acts 2:24; Jude 5, 7; 1 Pet. 3:19; Ps. 49:14).

43. Q. What shall be done to the wicked, at the day of judgment?

A. At the day of judgment the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels for ever (John 5:28, 29; Mt. 25:41, 46; 2 Thes. 1:8, 9).

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Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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A LIVELY HOPE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3

The Easter and Christmas holidays have almost become iconic. Many defend the practice and place great emphasis upon them. They cry out at the attempts to curtail them by our government and the agnostics and atheists who would disallow all but the most restrictive mention of them. Belief in the virgin birth and bodily resurrection of Christ are two of the five tenets of Christian fundamentalism. The others are inerrancy of the scripture, the blood atonement for sin and the historical reality of the miracles of Christ. It is certain that true believers adhere to these precious truths. However, when there is a mere outcry in defense of these things in the absence of true experiential expression, they become symbols of a movement rather than living truths in the heart.

There is ongoing celebration in the heart and lives of true believers. The birth of Christ Jesus our Lord was indeed a miracle; but, it was much more. It marked the incarnation of the Son of God and God the Son. Lenski declared it well in observing that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was the crowning point of His redemptive work. The dying sacrifice of Christ was both required and sufficient to satisfy the just demands of God and His righteousness. The resurrection of Christ is ever the basis for begetting us to a living hope. It is the fact that true hope is alive that separates a religious celebration from an ongoing and glorious experience that is ever assured to those who are living in Him.

This verse marks the beginning of a precious doxology (an expression of praise to God) that goes on for several verses. A. R. Faussett preciously observed four causes of salvation in this verse. They were God’s mercy, Christ’s death and resurrection, regeneration, and the final cause – our eternal bliss. In the words of the verse we understand the identity of God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We would not miss the Peter’s use of all three names of Christ. Not only does he acknowledge mercy, it is abundant mercy. It is He that has “begotten us and it is unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The word translated here as “lively” is usually translated as “living.” The commentators tend to substitute “living” here. Such an action is perfectly consistent in that in many places similar references to spiritual life are translated “living.” The word “lively” is never used in the ESV and perhaps some other modern language translations. It only appears three times in the New Testament. It would seem that the KJV translators saw something in the context that led them to see in this living something vital and vibrant. This living hope is that to which we are born. It is not mere existence. It is an exciting existence and it has come to us by the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul expressed it as a source of joy and that understood in the present. *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Romans 5:2. And again, Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Romans 12:12. A lively hope is certainly more than wishful thinking. We have heard people say, "I hope I make it to Heaven." The substance or lack thereof of such a fond wish is not to be discovered until the day of one's death. A "living Hope" is ever expressing itself in a claim registered in fellowship and identity with none other than Christ Himself.

The resurrection of Christ has indeed claimed this hope for all who come to Him. His resurrection is our resurrection and that was finalized nearly two millenniums ago. It is of the substance of His life from the dead of which we partake. It is the necessary Gospel. *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 1 Corinthians 15:14.* True faith is not in vain for it has claimed the hope of Glory. *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Colossians 1:27.* As we alluded to above our Hope lives in us and thus ours is a living hope.

"Throughout his epistle, Peter encourages his readers to hope. Hope is based on a living faith in Jesus Christ. It characterizes the believer who patiently waits for the salvation God had

promised to His people. 'Hoping is disciplined waiting.'" William Hendriksen. It would seem that the Elder Peter was fully in anticipation of the realization of all that was promised. And so it is that this lively and excited anticipation as well as the power and presence of the Lord moves true believers to celebration that never ends in this life and moves on to full joy in the presence of the Lord. Our bodily resurrection awaits and that fact is confirmed to us by the presence with us and the presence in Heaven of the One who was dead and is now alive forevermore. We who enjoy this hope that is alive will celebrate the resurrection of Christ at this designated season. The thoughts of the world are so directed and we would encourage them to think as did Peter and so direct their thoughts to this "Lively Hope" wherein salvation is claimed and enjoyed to the glory of God.

What a delight it is to live with such hope that is ever guiding and directing our thoughts to Him who is called the "Blessed Hope." *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:13-14. bhs*

What a cluster of sweet hopes!

(Octavius Winslow "Evening Thoughts")

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." Revelation 21:4

What a cluster of sweet hopes is here! What a collection of bright beams, throwing, in focal power, their splendor over that cloudless day! Heaven will be a state of perfect freedom from all sorrow!

Child of sorrow! Sick ones dear to Christ! Bereaved mourners! Hear these precious words, and let music break from your lips! God will dry your tears! As the

mother comforts her sorrowing one, so God will comfort His. Yes, child of grief, there will be no more weeping then; for, oh, ecstatic thought! "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." And "there shall be no more death." No more rending asunder of affection's close and tender ties; no more separations from the hearts we love; the mourners no more go about the streets; for death is now swallowed up in victory!

"Neither sorrow, nor crying." Grief cannot find existence or place in an atmosphere of such bliss. No frustrated plans, no bitter disappointments, no withered hopes, no corroding cares, there mingle with the deep sea of bliss, now pouring

its tide of joyousness over the soul! "Neither shall there be any more pain." Children of suffering, hear this! There will be no more pain racking the frame, torturing the limbs, and sending its influence through the system, until every nerve and fibre quivers with an indescribable agony. "The former things are passed away."

It will be a day of perfect freedom from all sins. Ah! this methinks will be the brightest and sweetest of all the joys of heaven. The Canaanite will no more dwell in the land. Inbred corruption will be done away; the conflict within us will have ceased; no evil heart will betray into inconsistencies and sorrows; not a cloud of guilt will tarnish the unsullied purity of the soul. You holy ones of God! weeping, mourning over indwelling and outbreking sin, the last sigh you heave will be a glad adieu to pollution; to be tormented with it no more, to be free from it forever!

"I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with your likeness." This is heaven indeed!

The Christian's hope!

(James Smith, "Christ Exalted, Saints Comforted, and Sinners Directed" 1855)

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Colossians 1:5

Many Christians have but little in hand — but they have much in hope. They have little on earth — but they have unsearchable wealth in Heaven! The present is the worst state they will ever be in. All beyond death — is bright, blissful and glorious!

The Christian's hope consists in both freedom and possession.

The Christian's hope consists in freedom from . . .

all the pains which we now experience, both in mind and body;

all the hindrances which are so thickly strewed in our way in this evil world;

all the fears which now beset, agitate, and harass us, day by day;

all the forebodings which often make our lives bitter and gloomy;

all the sins which are now our plague, disease, and torment;

all our needs, and all possibility of needing — for God will fully supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Oh, what a mercy it will be to enjoy such freedom — and to possess the inward consciousness that it will be enjoyed forever!

The Christian will not only be free from all that is painful and distressing — but he will also possess . . .

perfect, settled, and everlasting peace;

sinless faculties and immortal powers with which to serve and enjoy God forever;

permanent, perpetual, and uninterrupted joy;

the presence and enjoyment of Jesus — we shall see Him, be with Him, and be like Him; ALL that we can consistently wish or desire!

Our hope is laid up for us in Heaven. This betokens . . . its excellency — being kept in so excellent a place; its certainty and security — no thieves can break through to steal; its nature — it is spiritual, holy, Heavenly. O glorious hope! O blessed prospect! It leaves us nothing to long for — nothing to desire!

What a mercy it is . . . when comforts run short, when trials press sorely, when a dreary winter of affliction sets in — to remember that we have a priceless inheritance — an inheritance that is kept in heaven for us — pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay!

How this blessed hope should . . . quicken our zeal, animate our spirits, and raise us above fear and despondency.

It is not what we have now — but what we shall have in Heaven — which should affect us.

Our glorious inheritance is vast beyond calculation — it is safe beyond the possibility of failure!

The wilderness will soon be passed, the storms of life will soon subside — and eternal calm and unclouded sunshine, will soon be our happy, endless portion!

All glory to free grace!