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### ***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.*

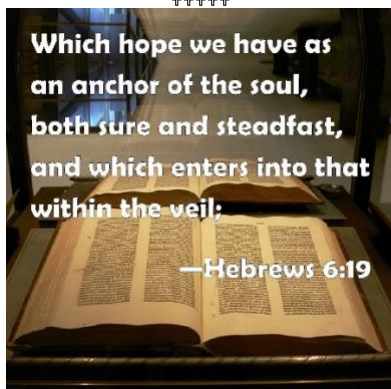
*His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in Him be found,  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.*

#### ***Refrain:***

*On Christ the Solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

**WORDS:** Edward Mote (w. 1834)  
**MUSIC:** William B. Bradbury (w. 1863)



### **Therefore I Have Hope**

On April 19, 1995, shortly after 9:00 AM, a truck pulled up in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, and exploded. It was one of the worst attacks on American soil, half the building collapsed seconds after the bomb was detonated, and 168 people lost their lives. The blast injured more than 680 others, destroyed or damaged 324 other buildings within a 16-block radius, shattered glass in 258 nearby buildings, and ruined or burned 86 cars, causing an estimated \$652 million worth of damage

An elm tree situated directly across the street from the blast, survived the blast. It became known as the *Survivor Tree*. Before the blast, the elm provided the only shade in a downtown parking lot. After the blast, the tree became a symbol of strength and resilience for a community that suffered tragedy. The tree not only survived, but it also continued to grow. The inscription around the tree reads:

"The spirit of this city and this nation will not be defeated; our deeply rooted faith sustains us." Called the "survivor tree," it is a symbol of hope to all who come to our city.

Another destruction took place in 586 B.C. The author of Lamentations writes following Jerusalem's devastation, sharing the overwhelming sense of loss, pain, and suffering experienced by the community. A few words of hope among the five chapters of lament stand strong, like the "survivor tree," in the midst of wreckage and ruin. One of the most powerful statements concerning God's

faithfulness and compassion is a reminder of what sustains during difficulty and pain.

“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21-23).

Among the temporary sorrow, pain, and difficulties of life, we have hope. When you experience a day or season of despair, uncertainty, loneliness, or fear, turn to Lamentations 3 and find hope. Healing, peace, and joy are found in our God’s unchanging character. Hope is rooted on our Lord!

Sally Shank, Edmond, Oklahoma



## Hope

Have you ever really contemplated the significance of Romans 15:4? It reads: “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

First, what is our hope? When we study the scriptures from Genesis 1 all the way through Revelation, we see God’s plan for man that existed even before Adam and Eve were created. God planned from the very beginning for us to have access to eternal life with Him. Some seem to take that for granted, and yet scripture tells us it is reserved only for those who obey His will. When we do that we are promised repeatedly that we will live eternally in God’s presence. What a blessing that is.

On the flip side, scripture tells us if we do not obey, we do not have that assurance. We will have eternal life, but it will not be in God’s presence. It will be in an eternal punishment. Revelation 21:8 tells us, “But for the cowardly, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and sexually immoral persons, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” We don’t like to dwell on that vision, and yet it is one of the last things recorded in our Bible. Usually, the last things stated in literature are the ones the author wishes to be remembered. I think God wants us to

remember there is a heavenly home available, but there is also an eternal place of punishment. We have a choice to make.

We realize Revelation is written in symbolic language, and yet, it is quite graphic—both the punishments and the rewards. I have a great hope to witness those rewards, whether literal or symbolic. Let’s look at a few of those.

Revelation 21:3 “And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them...” God will dwell among the faithful. Can you imagine anything more lovely than to dwell with the creator of all things?

Revelation 21:4, “and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” Does that not sound awesome to you? As a faithful Christian you can hope to see and experience those things. No tears, no death, no crying, and no pain. As an older woman, I cannot imagine having absolutely no pain anywhere! What a blissful thought.

He goes on in Revelation 21:6 “. . . I will give water to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost. <sup>7</sup> The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.” Paul also mentioned this adoption in several of his letters. When we adopt a child in our society, there are certain prerequisites to obtaining that finalized set of papers. Just so in God’s family. We must adhere to the prerequisites; and when we do, we are formally adopted. We are granted the hope of inheriting the benefits of heaven along with Jesus Christ. What a glorious hope we have to be called sons and daughters of Jehovah God.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana



## HOPEFUL or HOPELESS

Are you an optimist? Is there always a silver lining in every cloud? On the other hand, have you ever felt hopeless? Sometimes on the news or in our daily

lives, we see people who appear to be totally dejected and hopeless. Hopelessness sometimes comes because of poverty, hunger, homelessness, or even war as in Africa.

Hopelessness is a condition I never want to feel. Those who are hopeless—the prisoner, the homeless, the dying—all can have hope for eternity. Our earthly life may be “the pits,” but eternity does not have to be. Present circumstances may or may not improve, but heaven’s reward is worth it all!

One of the saddest scriptures in the Bible (Ephesians 2:11-13) describes the plight in which Gentiles once lived: <sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having **no hope and without God** in the world (emphasis added).

How awful it would be to have *no* hope! The next verse in that passage does bring hope, <sup>13</sup>*But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*” That occurred when they obeyed the gospel, and their condition changed from hopeless to hopeful. Most of us would be considered Gentiles, so this scripture gives us great hope.

Bible hope is not just wishful thinking. It is assurance, as in Heb. 6:11, <sup>11</sup>“And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end.” Also, Hebrews 6:19, <sup>19</sup>We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul... The apostle Peter wrote that we are “...born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3 (emphasis added).

Hope is essential in the lives of human beings. As Christians, we serve God, the Creator of the universe, including all things in and on the earth. We belong to Him! Sometimes a person is in such dire health that death seems inevitable, yet he or she hopes so deeply to accomplish something that they

overcome the illness or injury (at least temporarily). Sometimes, we casually hope the weather is good, or we hope the team wins this week. Our hope of eternal life in heaven is far greater!

Hope is positive. Hope is a cause for joy, Rom. 12:12; hope is promise, Acts 23:6b. We have the hope of salvation, 1 Thess. 5:8; and we have “the hope of eternal life,” Titus 1:2, 3:7.

Jeremiah said, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.” Lamentations 3:24 also says it well, “‘The Lord is my portion, says my soul. Therefore I hope in Him!’” The Psalmist wrote, “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”

As Christians, we are most blessed to have hope, an anchor for our souls with expectation that our God gives us! 1 Peter 1:3-5, <sup>3</sup>“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Hope is an integral part of life, and it is essential in our Christian walk. We are incredibly blessed to belong to God in heaven who provides the way for us to have eternal life with Him. May we ever be true and grateful to Him!

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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The header for the Sunrise newsletter features a scenic background of a snowy mountain range with evergreen trees. A stylized, cursive 'Sunrise' logo is prominently displayed in the center. Below the logo, a green banner contains the text 'The Newsletter For Women By Christian Women'.

*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by members of the Rolla Church of Christ. Sunrise is printed and distributed (primarily via email) to individuals and congregations around the country. All previous issues can be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveLove.org>. Click on the Resources tab, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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