

# Hope For Troubled Times: God's Ultimate Christmas Gift

*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life."*

Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV)

*"When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed, but a dream come true fills you with great joy."*

Proverbs 13:12

## I. Introduction

## II. Exposing the Counterfeits to Genuine Hope

The three poor substitutes for Biblical hope:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Four Insights Concerning Hope

1. A life without hope is one that literally feels like it's not worth living. Hope is the difference between the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Hope is an essential part of \_\_\_\_\_. Hope gives you something to look forward to, gives your life meaning, depth, something solid in the midst of all that is transitory.
3. For most people, hope is something \_\_\_\_\_, but the Bible talks about hope as something we \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Hope is the confident \_\_\_\_\_ that God is willing and able to fulfill His \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

***"In [God's] great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you."** 1 Peter 1:4*

***"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."** Hebrews 6:19*

## IV. Why Christians Have an Enduring Hope

1. We have hope because we've been \_\_\_\_\_ of our past.

*"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." Lamentations 3:21*

*"But if we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins, because we can always trust God to do what is right. **He will surely cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done.**" I John 1:9 (NCV)*

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant **nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain,** but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." I Timothy 6:17*

**2. Christians can have hope because we are assured of \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"For **I know the plans that I have for you,**' declares the LORD, 'plans for your welfare and not for calamity----plans to give you **a future and a hope.**" Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB)*

*"Remember the things of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. **For only I can tell you the future before it even happens**---even from ancient times, that which is still yet to come. **Everything I plan will certainly come to pass,** for I do whatever I wish." Is. 46:9-10*

*"**The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you;** He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8*

**3. Christians can have hope because we know who \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, **"This is the way; walk in it."** Isaiah 30:21*

*"Your word is **a lamp** unto my feet and **a light** unto my path." Psalm 119:105*

*"...(Jesus said), And surely **I am with you always,** to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20*

*"For **the Lord shall give His angels charge over you,** to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you even dash your foot against a stone." Psalm 91:11-12 (NKJV)*

*"As you live life, **I will instruct you** and **teach you** in the way you should go; I will **counsel you** and **watch over you.**" Psalm 32:8*

*"Smart men walked on the moon, daring men walked on the ocean floor, but wise men walk with God." ---Leonard Ravenhill*

*"Those who walk with God always reach their destination." ---Henry Ford*

*"There is nothing God doesn't know about your life. You may know the past and present, but God also knows the future. Choose today to walk securely - not in what you know, but in what you believe." ---David Jeremiah*

*"Don't ever hesitate to take to [God] whatever is on your heart. He already knows it anyway, but He doesn't want you to bear its pain or celebrate its joy alone." ---Billy Graham*

*"God steps into the suffering with us, and He takes it on himself, and He walks through it with us, and He uses it to create something in you that is unstoppable." ---Kirk Cameron*

## **ANSWER KEY:**

### **The three poor substitutes for Biblical hope:**

- Wishful thinking
- Blind optimism
- Ambitious dreams

### **III. Four Insights Concerning Hope**

1. light and the dark
2. being happy
3. they DO---can HAVE in Christ
4. expectation---promises

### **IV. Why Christians Have an Enduring Hope**

1. absolved
2. WHO controls our future
3. walks with us in the present