

HOPE

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Hope is an anchor and helmet. Paul tells us to put on the breastplate of faith **“and for a helmet the hope of salvation”** (1 The. 5:8). Hope is the anchor of the soul. Many are now driven by the wild winds of the angry sea and will soon be wrecked on the rocks of the distant shore. Only a good anchor can keep them from certain death. Paul says, **“we have a strong consolation (encouragement) who fled for our refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which is the anchor of the soul”** (Heb. 6:18-19). **“The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear them, upon them that hope in mercy”** (Psa. 33:18).

Let us not give up but press on toward the mark of the high calling. God has given us a helmet to protect us in the battles of life. Let us not trust in our own strength. When Peter looked at the waves and took his eye off Christ, he began to sink in the sea (Mat. 14:28-33). Jehovah says:

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (Isa. 41:10).

Let us not forget that Jesus said:

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: (Mat. 5:11-12).

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is” (Jer. 17:7). Let us **“rejoice in hope”** and be **“patient in tribulation”** and **“continue instant (steadfastly) in prayer”** (Rom. 12:12). As Paul says, **“We desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end”** (Heb. 6:11).~

Deceased