Christ Is The Hope Of The Church

Intro: We generally define hope as simply a desire for something or a desire or want for a certain thing to happen. This only presents one aspect of hope, however. Thayer states, “expectation, hope… in the Christian sense, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.” BDAG has, “the looking forward to something with some reason for confidence respecting fulfillment, hope, expectation.” Zodhiates sums it up by stating, “desire of some good with expectation of obtaining it.”

I. OUR HOPE IS IN CHRIST

A. We fix our hope on Jesus, for our hope is there.

1. 1 Tim. 1:1 “1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;”
2. Tit. 2:13 “13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”
3. When we hope for Christ, we hope for all the blessings He has to offer.
   a. No condemnation; Rom. 8:1 “1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
   b. New creature; 2 Cor. 5:17 “17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
   c. Child of God; Gal. 3:26 “26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
   d. Redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins;
      (1) Eph. 1:7 “7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
      (2) Col. 1:14 “14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
   e. Salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10 “10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
   f. All spiritual blessings; Eph. 1:3 “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ;”

B. The resurrection is the ground of the church’s hope.

1. 1 Pet. 1:3 “3 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,”
2. Through the resurrection Jesus was proven to be the Son of God; Rom. 1:4 “4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”
3. Through His resurrection, we have been given assurance of our bodily resurrection.
   a. 1 Cor. 15:20-23 “20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”
   b. 1 Cor. 15:52-57 “52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then
shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

II. WHAT THE CHRISTIAN HAS HOPE FOR IN CHRIST.

A. The hope of the glory of God
1. Rom. 5:2 “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
2. We become like God.
   a. We are partakers of His divine nature; 2 Pet. 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
   b. We become holy; 1 Pet. 1:15-16 “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
   c. We become righteous;
      (1) Gal. 5:5 “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”
      (2) 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
   d. We become pure; 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”
3. When we become like God we have a taste of that hope now because Christ is dwelling in us; Col. 1:27 “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:”

B. Hope is almost always referring to the future.
1. 1 Cor. 15:19 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”
2. Hope for salvation; 1 The. 5:8 “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”
3. Hope for a resurrection from the dead; Acts 24:15 “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.”
4. Hope for eternal life;
   a. Tit. 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
   b. Tit. 3:7 “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
5. This hope is our anchor of our souls; Heb. 6:19 “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;”

Conclusion: Without Christ we are described as having no hope; Eph. 2:12 “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.” The only way to have hope is by being in Christ. The only way to get into Christ is through baptism; Rom. 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” and Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”