

THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

(Kaikohe CF – 27/5/84 – EKB)

1. **Introductory Scriptures:** *Jer 17:7,13, Rom 15:13, 1Tim 1:1, Jer 29:11.*
2. **All men need hope.** As the graffiti says on one of the Auckland motorway embankments, “No hope without dope!” Drug users seek hope too.

A businessman, who had lost all through a financial failure, was told by an older trusted friend “You’ll come out on top!”. This became a spark of hope within him, that kept him from despair, fear, sleeplessness, anxiety, mental strain, panic, depression or worse.
3. **Biblical hope which is of God, Rom 15:13,** is not wishful thinking, but it is sure and certain knowledge of things provided for us by God, for the future. Hope relates to the future, Faith concerns the present. We live by faith in the present, and we need the hope God gives to us by His Word, in our life, as it relates to the future.
4. **The sure and certain hope God gives us,** is the helmet of armour that keeps and guards our mind, from depression, despair, fear, panic etc.
1Thes 5:8 “putting on...as a helmet the hope of salvation”
Heb 6:18,19 “We have fled for refuge, to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an **anchor for the soul** (mind), both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil, where Jesus is entered for us.”
Ps 42:5,11.
5. **Hope is necessary to ongoing life.** (natural hope as well as eternal hope.)
 - a. **Naturally,** young people hope for a job, a career, a profession, a happy marriage and family, to be a mechanic, farmer, lawyer, nurse, secretary, doctor, to gain a family business, farm, to be a top athlete, to gain a record, a cup, a first place, a place in the Olympic team. **This motivates them** to study, train, give up certain hobbies, interests, pleasures, foods, and to discipline their lives toward the future hope. **It is hope for the future that motivates present purpose,** direction, aim, application, and endeavour.
 - b. **Eternal hope from God’s Word also motivates us in our present Christian endeavour and walk.**
1Jn 3:2,3 “We know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is. Every man that has this **hope** in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.”
This **hope** given us by God, urges, and motivates us to prepare our lives in readiness for meeting the Lord, so that we do not allow things to remain in our lives that are a hindrance to a pure relationship with God.
See *2Tim 4:8, Heb 11:24-26, Rom 8:24,25.*
6. **The Gospel is full of hope,** of good things to come, *Jer 29:11. Future prospects are excellent.* *Jn 14:1-3, 1Pet 1:3-5, Tit 2:13, Mat 25:21, 1Thes 4:13-18, 1Cor 15:19,42-44,51-54, 2Tim 1:10,12, Jude 24.*

7. **The world and all without Christ have no lasting, permanent hope.** *Eph 2:12*. They are **without hope**. Contemporary music, popular with young people, expresses this lack of hope, e.g. Bob Dylan's "Hey Mr Tambourine Man!" No direction, no purpose, no hope. Since 1945 and the advent of the atomic age, mankind has lost hope for the "Utopia" and sees only the fear of the finger and the button. But *Dan 2:34,35,44,45, Is 9:6,7, Ps 24:1,2, Mat 16:18*, declares to us that God's Kingdom and the Church shall increase and fill the whole earth with the glory of God, *Num 14:21*.
8. **There is Hope for the Dead in Christ.** *1Cor 15:19,42-44,51-54, 1Thes 4:14*. Death is a temporary loss. *Jn 6:40, Ac 24:15, 2Tim 1:10*. There is a sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead.
9. **There is Hope for the Church,** not to continue to be weak, sickly, divided, carnal, ineffective, but God purposes the Church to be united, powerful, glorious, revealing Christ to the world. *Eph 5:27, Eph 4:13, Jn 17:21-23*. This prayer of Jesus will be fulfilled before His Second Coming, "that the world may believe that you sent Me," v21. Clearly prior to the Second Advent as *Jn 17:21-23* shows
10. **There is Hope for each Individual Believer in Christ.**
In the natural an individual may receive an inheritance from his/her parents. Many do not however, and have to make their own way, after they mature and leave home. God assures all who believe in Christ that they have a glorious everlasting inheritance secured for them in God. *1Pet 1:3-5, Mat 25:21, 2Tim 4:8, Col 3:23,24*,
11. **There is Hope for the Earth.**
This sorely tried earth, polluted and spoiled by actions of selfishness is to be replenished, and filled with the glory of God. *Num 14:21, Hab 2:14, Rev 11:15, Dan 2:34,35,44, Ps 72:19*.
12. **We are Captives of Hope.**
Zech 9:12. It is hope that has gripped us. Like Moses we have "respect unto the recompense of the reward." *Heb 11:26*. And Abraham, *Heb 11:10, Rom 4:18*.
13. **Faith for the Present is Based on a Hope in God for the Future.**
We need hope for the future, to enable faith for the present.
Heb 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." It is faith that brings into the now, things previously hoped for. e.g. I hoped to be healed, so I sought God in His Word, and the Holy Spirit quickened into my heart His Word of healing. Faith was imparted, I believed and confessed the Word and was healed.

Heb 11:1 could possibly read, "faith gives substance, to things hoped for." (See AMPV).
14. **The things hoped for in *Heb 11:1*** are all the promises God has given to us in His Word. As we choose, and determine in our mind, to **think on these things, and to refuse to think on contrary things**, this becomes the helmet of the hope of salvation. *1Thes 5:8*. The helmet of the hope of salvation is what covers and keeps our mind from fear, despair and hopelessness. In *Eph 6:17* it is called the helmet of salvation. God's promises are promises of His salvation, *2Pet 1:3,4, 2Cor 1:20*, and when our mind is set on these, *Col 3:2*, we have on us the helmet of salvation.