

Security of the Believer

In Christ Jesus is hope because He, the Son, is the one access to the heavenly Father (cf. Ephesians 1:12, 18). Salvation is in no other name (cf. Acts 4:12). Without Christ men are without hope. Confident expectation in Jesus is a spiritual anchor, which is sure and steadfast because He has entered heaven for us and became High Priest and Mediator (cf. Hebrews 6:19, 20). The sanctified and elect in Christ are begotten again to a living hope that is an unfading inheritance, reserved in heaven (cf. I Peter 1:3, 4).

The gospel of Christ warns Christians concerning coming short of God's promised rest (cf. Hebrews 4:1). Set on the backdrop of Israelites' unbelief and disobedience (cf. 3:17, 18), spiritual brethren are admonished, "*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*" (4:11). A child of God and disciple of Christ can fall (cf. I Corinthians 10:12), can suffer spiritual shipwreck (cf. I Timothy 1:19) and can depart from the faith (cf. 4:1). The Lord Jesus Himself taught that every branch in Him – Christians – who do not bear fruit will be removed from Him (cf. John 15:2, 6).

How can the believer be assured of the inheritance in heaven? The sureness of the hope of eternal rest in heaven is dependent upon what God has done for us through His only Begotten Son and upon what the believer does. Believers flee for refuge and strong consolation to the true and living God who does not lie (cf. Hebrews 6:18) and who so loved the world that He sacrificed His Son to be the atonement and propitiation for sin (cf. John 3:16). God is faithful. He has done what He said He would do, and He will do what He promises. His word is certain. His trustworthiness strengthens hope.

A Christian secures entrance into the everlasting kingdom by diligent adherence to the Lord's will. God's word of grace "*is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified*" (Acts 20:32). The Christian must continue to abide in the doctrine of Christ (cf. II John 9). He walks in the light of the Lord (cf. I John 1:7) and practices righteousness (cf. 2:29). He adds to faith the spiritual virtues of Christ so that he is not unfruitful, but rather abounds, "*for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (cf. I Peter 1:5-11).

