

NO HOPE WITHOUT HOLINESS

A life without any hope, without any confident expectation of any future good in this life, or in the hereafter is a sad life. It is a miserable life, a life to be pitied. Hope has to do with things which we have not yet seen or experienced.

Christians are saved in hope for they eagerly wait with steadfastness for what lies ahead. *“For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”* (Romans 8:24-25) God according to His mercy *“has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”* (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Hope serves to anchor us to God in this life, knowing God is unchangeably faithful because *“it is impossible for God to lie”* (Hebrews 6:18, 19). A steadfast hope of being with God in heaven, though, perseveres according to the holiness of truth. Holy, holy, holy is God. Can He allow entrance into His heavenly home someone who has not pursued the holiness of the new man in Christ? Fixing our hope on the grace to be revealed when our Lord returns entails becoming holy in all our behavior like the Holy One. *“Therefore, prepare you minds for action, keep sober, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”* (1 Peter 1:13-16) There can be no hope for you and me unless we seek daily to clothe ourselves with our heavenly Father’s holiness.