

Bible Questions & Answers

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Worship: 10:30am & 6:00pm Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45am Sun. & 7:00pm Wed.
RADIO: Mon-Fri. 6:55am (1230AM, 95.3FM)
TV: Comcast Ch.8, Tues. 8pm, Thur. 9pm
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WHAT IS THE "ONE HOPE" IN EPHESIANS 4:4?

Without hope, one is miserable. Suicide is primarily caused by people seeing no hope for a bright future. The Bible says there is only ONE HOPE! Hope is defined as: "*to anticipate, expectation, trust, fully expect.*" It is not a blind hope or wish. It is real. We fully expect to receive God's promises for he is faithful (Hebrews 1:13; 10:23).

Hope is the desire and expectation of the unseen (Philippians 3:12-14; Romans 8:24-25). There are several things the Bible mentions we hope for: the resurrection of the dead (Acts 24:15), the Savior to come from heaven (Titus 2:13), the hope and glory laid up for us in heaven (Colossians 1:5,27), life beyond death (1 Corinthians 15:19), salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8), eternal life (Titus 3:7), an entrance into the everlasting kingdom (2 Peter 1:11). We also hope in the Lord's mercy (Psalm 33:18).

The "one hope" is based in God (1 Peter 1:21), Christ (1 Timothy 1:1) and the Gospel (Colossians 1:23). Therefore, the wicked have no hope. Before one becomes a Christian, there is "no hope" (Ephesians 2:12). But for the righteous, there is hope (Proverbs 10:28). Jesus said, "*whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die*" (John 11:26). But he also said, "*why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say*" (Luke 6:46)? Jesus is "*the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6), but only to those who OBEY him (Matthew 7:21). Those are the only ones who have hope. Sinners must: **Believe** (John 8:24), **Repent** (Acts 2:28), **Confess** Christ (Romans 10:10), and be **Baptized** (Mark 16:16) to be saved and have the "one hope" of heaven. Erring Christians must repent and pray (Acts 8:22-24; James 5:16).

Hope is the anchor of the soul that is both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:12). But it will only be realized AFTER Jesus returns to the earth, at which time he will separate the wicked from the righteous (Matthew 25:31-46). "*And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises*" (Hebrews 6:11). "*Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come*" (Matthew 24:42).