

Hope - Which Kind?

Here we are, going through the first month of a new year, 2021. A year ago, here in North America, we heard the first reports of a new virus discovered on the other side of the world and the warning that it could spread quickly across the whole world. **Hope** that it would have little impact in our western world was the first thought that came to mind. But it quickly became clear that this was an **empty hope**. Then we all **hoped** that it would just die out and disappear in a few months, which turned out to be a **vain hope**. In North America alone, hundreds of thousands have already died from it, hospitals are filled to capacity with those who are seriously ill from it, and it continues to spread. Now everyone is **desperately hoping** that the recently introduced vaccines will successfully control it, and **hopefully** even eradicate it. So far, all of this **hoping** does not seem to have done much good.

Obviously, the One and Only True God, Who created this world in the first place, and controls all that happens in it, is allowing this situation to persist as He is still trying to get our attention, and have us realize that He alone has the answer to what the real problem is in this world. The real problem is not the virus, but SIN, of which everyone in the world is guilty, and for which God requires righteous judgment. That judgment would be everlasting punishment in Hell. But in His great love for you, God has provided the only answer to that problem. He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus, into this world, and told us clearly in His Word, the Bible, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). On the cross, Jesus endured God's judgment against sin, and gave his life in death, and shed His blood. He made it possible for you to be saved from the judgment your sins deserve if you believe that Jesus did all that for you.

Jesus Himself says, in John 3:16-18: *God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believes on Him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God.* If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you will be saved from God's everlasting punishment for your sins. Instead, you will have everlasting life and the **guaranteed hope** of living in Heaven with Him forever. God's Word, the Bible, speaks of this **hope as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:19)**

Which hope is truly yours? An empty hope, keeping your fingers crossed, and hoping for the best? Or the sure and certain hope that can be yours the moment you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Don't wait! Now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Robert for Vision 2020 in 2021

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