

Looking for That Blessed Hope

By Scott Moller

The apostle Paul declared one of his greatest desires was to be *“looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* in Titus 2:13 (NIV). He proclaimed that our **blessed hope** was the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ—this “hope” being a blessed or a holy and consecrated hope. Hope is the combination of a feeling of expectation and desire, something to be longed for with our whole being.

Paul and the other apostles truly hoped and longed for the return of Jesus Christ. They wrote of it often in their letters in the New Testament. They reminded the early Christians of Christ’s coming as a means of encouragement. But sadly today, many Christians are no longer looking for the “Blessed Hope.” It could be for many reasons, such as ignorance and lack of understating, misplaced priorities, worldly distractions, or some other reason. It is usually easier to fix our eyes on the seen versus unseen.

Here are a few reasons why Believers should see Christ’s appearing as our blessed hope. The first and foremost reason is it means we will be in the presence of our Lord and Savior. There can be no greater joy for a Christian than to be in the presence of Jesus Christ. It will be an unspeakable joy that no words could describe. Second will be the complete joy of our salvation, as Peter states, *“Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming”* (1 Peter 1:13b). The full measure of God’s grace will be revealed to us at the coming of Jesus Christ. The third reason is that at that time, we will be freed from the war against temptation and sin. *“Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul”* (1 Peter 2:11). All of us battle against the sinful desires that so easily entangle us. Christ’s return will set us free from our own sinful flesh. Lastly, we will be freed from the curse and death at His coming. All of us are subject to the ravages of the curse and ultimately to death itself. Not one of us can escape the tragedies of this life because of the curse and death. But Christ’s return will bring victory over the curse and death. Paul declared, *“The last enemy to be destroyed is death”* (1 Corinthians 15:26). Jesus is the only one who can destroy death because He is the only one to have victory over death in His resurrection.

There are certainly many more reasons to hope in Christ’s return, but these four are sufficient. Let us do as Paul proclaimed and “fix” our eyes on Jesus as we look for that blessed hope.

“According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:15).

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done” (Revelation 22:12).