

## Hope for the Future

By Dave Weatherly

Simply defined, hope is the Christian's attitude towards the future. Hope anticipates what God will yet do as promised in Scripture. Christians are not to hope half-heartedly but with finality, without any doubt concerning the promises of God: *"He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant"* (Colossians 1:22-23).

Believers owe their hope exclusively to God's graciousness and faithfulness. He provided the perfect Salvation in Christ, which resulted in the forgiveness of all our sins (past, present, and future) and our transformation from the Kingdom of Darkness to the eternal Kingdom of Light. God has been faithful in the past, is being faithful in the present, and will be faithful to all His promises for the future: *"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord"* (1 Corinthians 1:9).

The unbelieving world knows only dying hopes, but Believers have a Living Hope that will come to a complete, final, and glorious fulfillment. It is this Hope that Peter describes when he wrote, *"But in keeping with promise we are looking forward to a new Heaven and a new Earth, the Home of Righteousness"* (2 Peter 3:13).

This Hope was what prompted Paul to tell the Philippians, *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21). At death or the Rapture, the Believer's Hope becomes reality as they enter the glorious presence of God and joyous fellowship with the Trinity and other Believers.

*"For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope."*  
(Galatians 5:5)