

# *The Professor's Theological Home Page*

*"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." (Acts 16:31)*

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## **Hope where there is no Hope – Part 4**

Once again, there is another report of a murder-suicide story on khou.com. This time the story involves a man who shot his wife and two daughters before turning the gun on himself. Witnesses said he had financial problems and had recently divorced. It is unfortunate that individuals many times reach such a conclusion. This is especially true when it involves innocent victims. Yet, as we have been examining, putting our complete hope in other individuals and circumstances can be quite devastating. The devastation occurs when that hope comes short of our expectations.

In retrospect, from our previous three parts of our article, we see that only the Lord gives true hope that never disappoints. The Lord's hope exceeds any expectations that any of us might have on this subject. For the unbeliever, God's hope begins with having the assurance of salvation and being in union with Him forever in a resurrected glorified body. The Bible is clear that the basis of gaining the hope of salvation is only through faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Lord Himself states that he is the only way unto the Father (John 14:6).

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV John 14:6)

Yet, the believer should not stop at their hope of salvation, but continue to maximize their hope of blessings in time and blessings for the eternal state. As we have seen in part three of our article, it is our progress to spiritual maturity that unlocks these blessing as we develop the capacity to receive them. With that said, let us now conclude our article by analyzing some of the privileges that will accompany the ultimate decoration of the victorious believer, known as the order of the Morning Star.

Most believers have no clue what the order of the Morning Star is. Yet as a believer in Jesus Christ, we should know. If we are to strive for an eternal reward, it is only reasonable that we understand what that reward is. This is especially paramount since the order of the Morning Star is the highest decoration awarded to a believer and comes with the greatest amount of blessings.

The first thing to note is that this decoration will only be for the invisible heroes of the Church Age. The decoration will be for their ultimate invisible impact as mature believers. With this decoration, all winner believers will not only rule nations, but also wear a special uniform of glory (Rev. 2:26-28; 3:4-5).

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (KJV Rev. 3:4-5)

There is an invisible uniform of honor that the mature believer wears in this life. At the judgment seat of Christ this invisible uniform will change into a uniform of glory. We get a glimpse of the eternal uniform of glory with our Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:2).

And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light. (Matt. 17:2)

Therefore, the uniform of glory will be given as a translucent light which will cover the resurrected body of the winner believer. This is the uniform that will be a memorial to the right decisions that we made here on earth and will distinguish the winner believer from those believers who fail to reach maturity. In addition, the name of the winners will be on record in the historical section of the heavenly temple due to their invisible impact on history during the Church Age (Rev. 3:12).

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (KJV Rev. 3:12)

The temple of God will be the eternal record center for all eternity and each pillar will have the record of the life of the winner. Although such a victorious believer may be anonymous in his life on earth, God is keeping records of the invisible impact of the winner and will reward them accordingly.

Therefore, upon examination of the marvelous rewards that the winner believers will get, we should note that believers who fail in their spiritual life will miss out on these rewards. As a result, there will be distinctions between believers in God's eternal kingdom. The rewards of those who succeeded in their spiritual life will be a testimony of their success for all eternity. The lack of rewards for those who fail in their spiritual life will also be a testimony of their failure for all eternity.

True freedom, whether here on this earth or for the eternal state, will always guarantee a distinction among individuals. The distinction occurs because some will always use that freedom to succeed and some will use that freedom to fail. This is why in our country today we have the successful and the not so successful.

Thus, we determine the difference between our spiritual success and failure while we are still alive. Let us not squander the opportunity that we have to receive the rewards that the Lord has to give the believer who overcomes. This hope transcends this life and into the eternal state. It is a hope that we cannot find anywhere else but in God, since true hope is the monopoly of God.

Therefore, it is futile to find lasting hope in Satan's world system. As born-again believers in Jesus Christ, we should not fall victims of deception by anyone peddling false hope. This is a tendency of many believers when it comes to our government. Politicians cannot and should not advocate hope by passing laws to give people hope. This is a misapplication of law and no politician has a right to give you hope! Hope comes from God and not politicians! Politicians are infallible, finite and have a sinful human nature like the rest of humanity!

There is only one human being who is infallible, infinite and without sin and his name is the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is him and him alone who can give us the perfect hope that will never disappoint.