

## Hope Does Not Disappoint

Thirty years ago was the year 1986, the so-called “Year of the Comet.” Anticipation for Halley’s Comet was exciting. It was the first time Halley’s Comet would appear in the sky since 1910, and it wouldn’t be back again until 2061.

As the year came and went, excitement became disappointment. As it turned out, Halley’s Comet was barely visible to the naked eye. It passed by on the opposite side of the sun from where the earth was, creating the worst circumstances possible for viewing it. The comet appeared as nothing more than a dim, fuzzy patch of light in the night sky.

This is how it goes with many things in this world. Hype and expectations often turn out to be much greater than the actual events we anticipate. In fact, we often find more joy in anticipating than in receiving.

In a world where many of our expectations go unfulfilled, how great would it be to have a hope that is guaranteed not to disappoint? Christians have that guarantee in Christ Jesus, for we know that our hope in Him will be fully realized. How can we know for certain that our hope in Jesus will be fulfilled, and what gives us this guarantee? Consider Romans 5:1-9:

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Our hope in Christ will not disappoint because it is guaranteed by the love of God that has already been fully demonstrated in the cross of Christ. We know that God loved us enough to give His Son, so we can be confident about our hope in Him. Notice Romans 8:32:

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Therefore, be assured that hope in Jesus Christ will not disappoint, take hold of that hope, and never let it go. All of the disappointments of this world should teach us that we cannot depend on the world, but the hope we have in Christ transcends this world. Notice Hebrews 6:19-20:

<sup>19</sup>This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

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The “veil where Jesus has entered” is heaven itself (Heb. 8:1-2), and that is where hope in Christ is anchored. We not only have joy in anticipating heaven, but we shall have even greater joy in receiving it. Do you have the hope that does not disappoint?