



bits from bob....

Living Hope
May 4, 2020

Do you have hope? Do you have a living hope? What a thought! If there is living hope, there is dead hope. What if I have hope, but it is dead? What if I don't know it's dead? God has not left us to secure our own hope. God gives us hope and a future more glorious than we can imagine.

Here's why I share "bits" and Wednesday W.O.W – Scripture can shape and reshape our lives.

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Consistent with his great mercy, he gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are being guarded by faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Pet. 1:3–5, my translation)

Fear is about the future. Think about it. We do not fear the past, although we may fear future consequences of the past. We do not fear the present. Our present fears are focused in the future. The second after we are fearful, we arrive in what a second ago was identified as the future. Today is fleeting. Fear focuses on the future. "What will happen?" The future is unseen, uncertain, unpredictable.

We hope. It is not wrong to wonder about the future, or to plan for the future. But our concerns, questions, and plans must always include God (James 4:17-18). Our hope is Christ (Col. 3:1-4). Christ in us is hope (Col. 1:27). God gave us living hope. The hope that whispers comfort looks beyond this life.

As long as we live in this world, the future remains unknown. We will not figure it out. Our living hope, vibrant, vivacious is in what God has already done, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Notice what the text says: God is merciful; God gave us a new birth; rebirth is possible through Jesus' resurrection; we are made alive again to receive an inheritance.

God holds the future. I do not know about tomorrow, but I know who holds tomorrow in his hands. Peter describes the focus of living hope – an inheritance "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading." Imperishable means never decaying, incorruptible, never going away. Undefiled means unsoiled, untouched by human hands.

Our inheritance is reserved for us, being guarded and kept by God. Peter says that God is securing our inheritance, and he is guarding us. He is protecting our inheritance; he is protecting us. That is foundation enough for a living hope!