

**Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”**

Paul uses the word “hope” 46 times in his epistles. Only once (in Phil.2:23) does he use the word mixed with some measure of doubt, and then only because he is speaking of his desire to send Timothy to them, which he knew could be affected by circumstances beyond his control. His description of Abraham’s “FAITH” is a commentary upon his normal usage of the word “hope”. *“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.”* He is saying that humanly speaking, Abraham had no reason to expect that these things which GOD had promised could or would come to pass. He was a hundred years old and well past the normal age of having children as well as Sarah being ninety. Yet because he trusted in the GOD of the promise, he expected the promise to be fulfilled, even though he staggered at the weakness of his own flesh. *“And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.”*

Many have erred in believing that it was Abraham’s “act” of faith that was imputed to him for righteousness. It was not his “act” of faith, but rather HIS “OBJECT” of faith that became his “RIGHTEOUSNESS.” This is the same confession that Paul made when he said, *“I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”* *“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”*

In writing to Timothy, Paul plainly declares who the HOPE of the sons of GOD is. *“The LORD JESUS CHRIST—our HOPE.”* CHRIST has been the HOPE of the sons of GOD in all ages past. Even as we saw with Abraham who gave answer to Isaac’s question. *“And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”* Job confessed; *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”*

CHRIST is the HOPE of the sons of GOD in the present time. *“behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.”* *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.”* The justification of the sons of GOD is the grounds of their rejoicing **now**. *“Rejoicing in hope.”* *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, (i.e. presently) and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* The BASIS of our HOPE for the future rests upon the same BASIS in the present time. *“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”*

CHRIST is the HOPE of the sons of GOD in the future. *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”* If a man is without HOPE in the present time, then he has no basis upon which to have a HOPE in the ages to come. *“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.”* Because we rest in CHRIST as our HOPE and EXCEEDING GREAT REWARD, we expect that HE shall preserve us in the ages to come. *“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

Though we may often find little evidence in ourselves that we are the sons of GOD, yet in CHRIST we have HOPE. *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”* *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”* Is CHRIST your HOPE?

Thy free grace alone,”#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthepoor@windstream.net](mailto:forthepoor@windstream.net)**