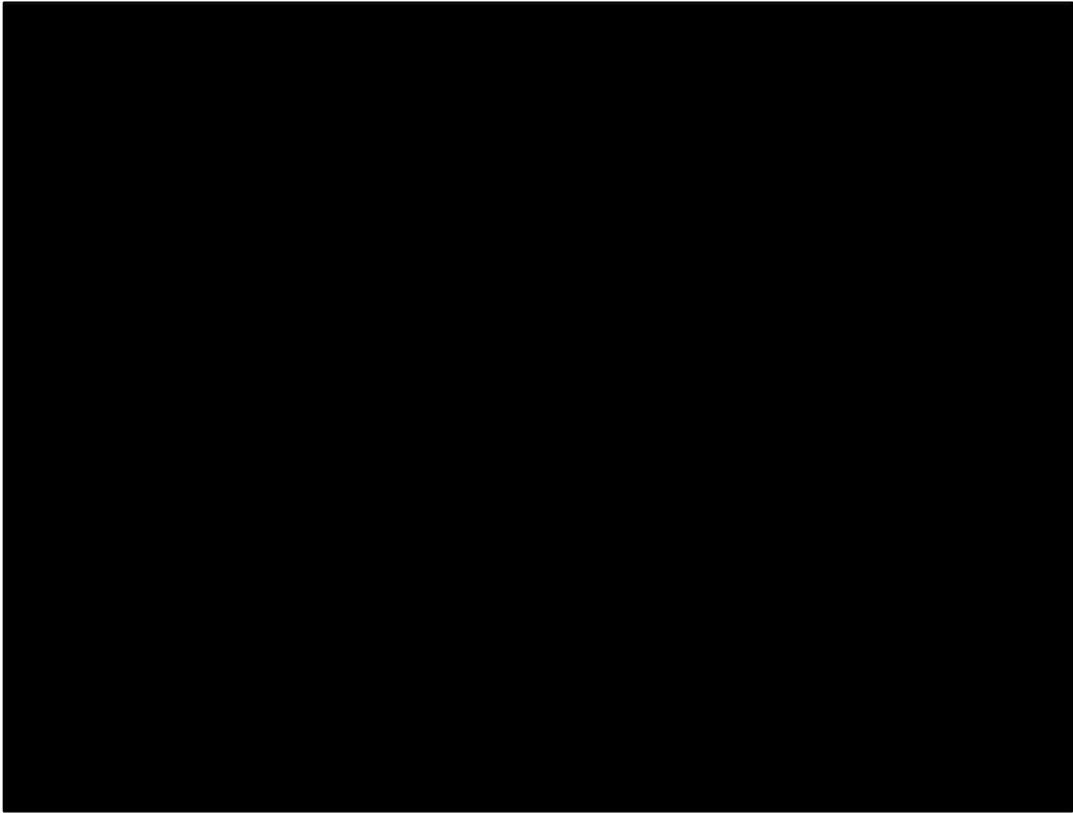




Amazing Grace  
These are the days of Elijah  
10,000 reasons



Almighty God, King of Kings, Lord of lords we love to sing praises to you and in these times we sing them in our hearts and minds.. We rejoice in You, our maker. We exalt You, our King. We praise Your name, for You delight in Your people. We do not deserve to come into the presence of the Holy God of the Universe but You have crowned the humble with victory, You have lifted up those who are bowed down, You have clothed us in Your righteousness. We come before You with confidence, not based on ourselves, but based on Your love. Let Your praises be in our hearts and on our lips. We look to You for the hope we have through the actions of Your dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Now we listen to and sing in our hearts and minds “Christ Alone our hope and glory”.

## **Titus 2:11-14**

11 For God has revealed His grace for the salvation of all people.

12 That grace instructs us to give up ungodly living and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this world,  
13 as we wait for the blessed Day we hope for, when the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ will appear.

14 He gave himself for us, to rescue us from all wickedness and to make us a pure people who belong to him alone and are eager to do good.

### **Titus 2:11-14**

It says in Titus 2:11-14

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### **Introduction**

Although Faith & Hope are closely linked together, but they should be clearly distinguished. Faith has work to perform today; Hope cheers faith along the way and points to rewards of service. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom 10:17 "So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ."); Hope comes by experience (Rom. 5:4 "endurance brings God's approval, and his approval creates hope"). Faith accepts the gift of promise; Hope confidently expects the fulfilment of promise. The Word of God says much about HOPE, but never does it use the term to mean uncertainty or doubt. It is wrong to use the Scriptural term of to say, "I hope I am a Christian" as much as it would be for me to say, "I hope I am English." I do not hope to be something that I KNOW I already am! Let us examine three classes in the world today in respect to their relations to HOPE. There are those who have No Hope; those who have False Hope; and those who have True Hope.

## **Eph. 2:11-12**

11 You Gentiles by birth—called “the uncircumcised” by the Jews, who call themselves the circumcised (which refers to what men do to their bodies)—remember what you were in the past.

12 At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to God's chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on God's promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God.

### NO HOPE

Eph. 2:11-12 says “You Gentiles by birth—called “the uncircumcised” by the Jews, who call themselves the circumcised (which refers to what men do to their bodies)—remember what you were in the past. At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners and did not belong to God's chosen people. You had no part in the covenants, which were based on God's promises to his people, and you lived in this world without hope and without God.”

According to God’s Word, there are those today who are described as having NO HOPE – and without God in the world. While you may think that there are many who have No Hope, I disagree. Hope is as essential to the human soul as Faith is to society. A life without hope becomes an unendurable misery, a burden too grievous to be borne. God Himself recognized the necessity of HOPE for the human soul – In **Genesis 3**, after Adam and Eve had sinned, they were without HOPE. God condescended to the need of man and gave Adam HOPE – Gen. 3:15 (God talking to the serpent “I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring's heel.”)

In **Ephesians 2:11-12** as we see in the reading, Paul discussed those who had No Hope – being without God in the world. Ever since the origin of man, man has

put his HOPE in either one or more gods. However, we must admit that there are still those who are distraught – “Without HOPE and without God in the world.” Sadly, one of the major causes of death among teenagers is still SUICIDE! I heard about a mother whose 16 year old daughter committed suicide; One of my friends children committed suicide who was only 15. What a terrible thing for young and old alike to be without HOPE!

**Matthew 7:21-27**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do.

<sup>22</sup> When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!’

<sup>23</sup> Then I will say to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!’

<sup>24</sup> “So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock.

<sup>25</sup> The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

<sup>26</sup> “But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

<sup>27</sup> The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!”

FALSE HOPE

Matt. 7:21-27 says “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do. When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God's message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!’ Then I will say to them, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!’ So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!”

Sadly, those who have False Hope are more numerous and worse off than those having No Hope. They are not found only in the dark corners of Africa or the deepest jungles of South America. Many who have False Hope can be found right in our own communities. False Hope is far worse than No Hope at all! A man who finds himself hopeless may be inclined to accept True Hope, but one who has a False Hope must admit his hope was vain before he will accept another. False Hope seems to be self-sufficient – UNTIL times of testing come! Many men and women have found that their hope was mere vanity when troubles arise. Those who have False Hope not built upon a firm foundation, are like the “foolish man who built his house upon the sand!” The drunkard who thinks that he can quit any time he likes has False Hope. The drug addict who thinks that he can escape his problems by getting high has False Hope. The thief who thinks he can steal without consequence has False Hope. The church member who thinks that baptism, membership, or deeds is all that is necessary to escape hell has False Hope. The rebellious child who disobeys his or her parents and thinks that he/she has gotten away with their actions has False Hope. The husband or wife who is unfaithful, yet thinks they are clever enough to get away with their actions has False Hope. There are also those who believe in religions without Christ – they have False Hope. In God’s Word, Eli’s sons were evil, but thought that since they were born into a prominent family, they could get away with their actions - False Hope. Even wisdom that is not founded upon the fear of God is vanity and

vexation of spirit – Eccl. 1:18 There are those who believe in a 2nd chance beyond our present life – They believe that repentance can be made after one dies - False Hope. There are those who believe that IF they marry an infidel, they can lead them to Christ - False Hope. Most women who marry unsaved men wind up failing in their own Christian lives. Oh, the list of False Hope continues on and on even in our day and age!

1. Read - **Titus 2:13-3:7**
2. Read - **Hebrews 6:18-19**
3. Read – **1 Peter 1:3-5**

TRUE HOPE (Titus 2:13-37)

What IS TRUE HOPE? There is only ONE in regard to salvation.

Read - **Titus 2:13-3:7**

<sup>2:14</sup> He gave himself for us, to rescue us from all wickedness and to make us a pure people who belong to him alone and are eager to do good.

<sup>3:6</sup> God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup> so that by his grace we might be put right with God and come into possession of the eternal life we **hope** for.

Read - **Hebrews 6:18-19**

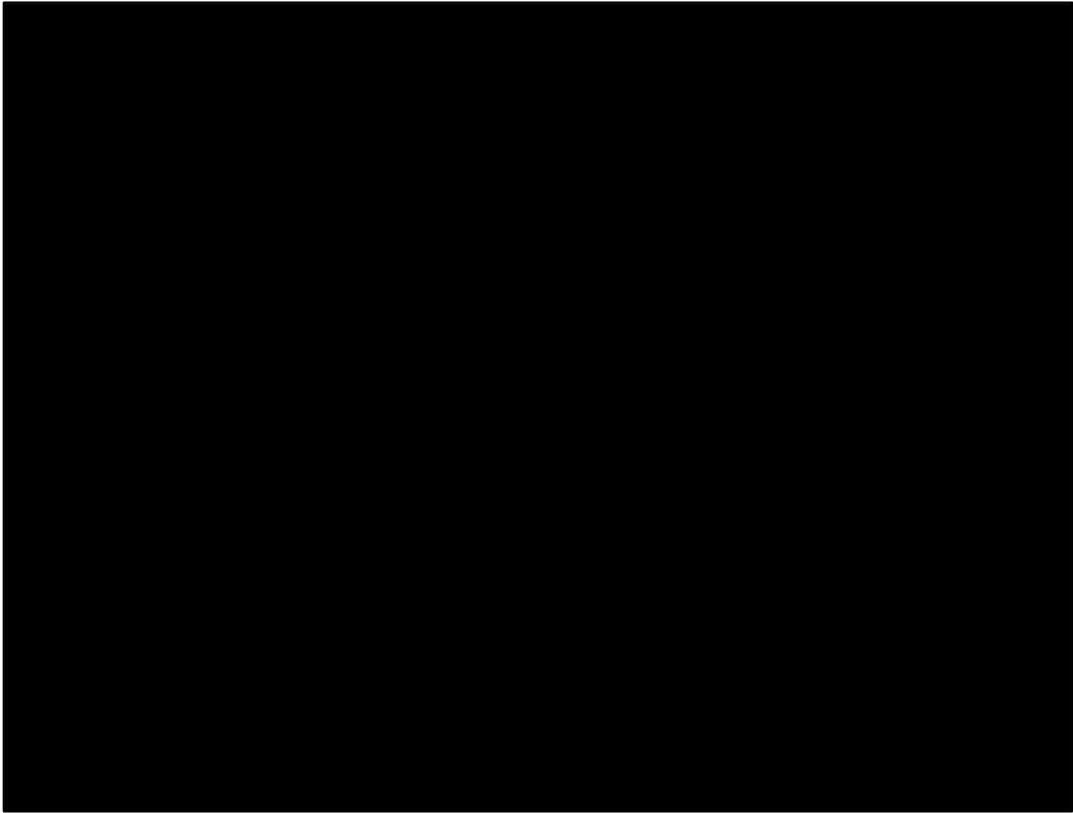
<sup>18</sup> There are these two things, then, that cannot change and about which God cannot lie. So we who have found safety with him are greatly encouraged to hold firmly to the **hope** placed before us.

<sup>19</sup> We have this **hope** as an anchor for our lives. It is safe and sure, and goes through the curtain of the heavenly temple into the inner sanctuary.

Read – **1 Peter 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us

with a living **hope**, <sup>4</sup> and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. <sup>5</sup> They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.



Let us pray for our friends in the blue book.

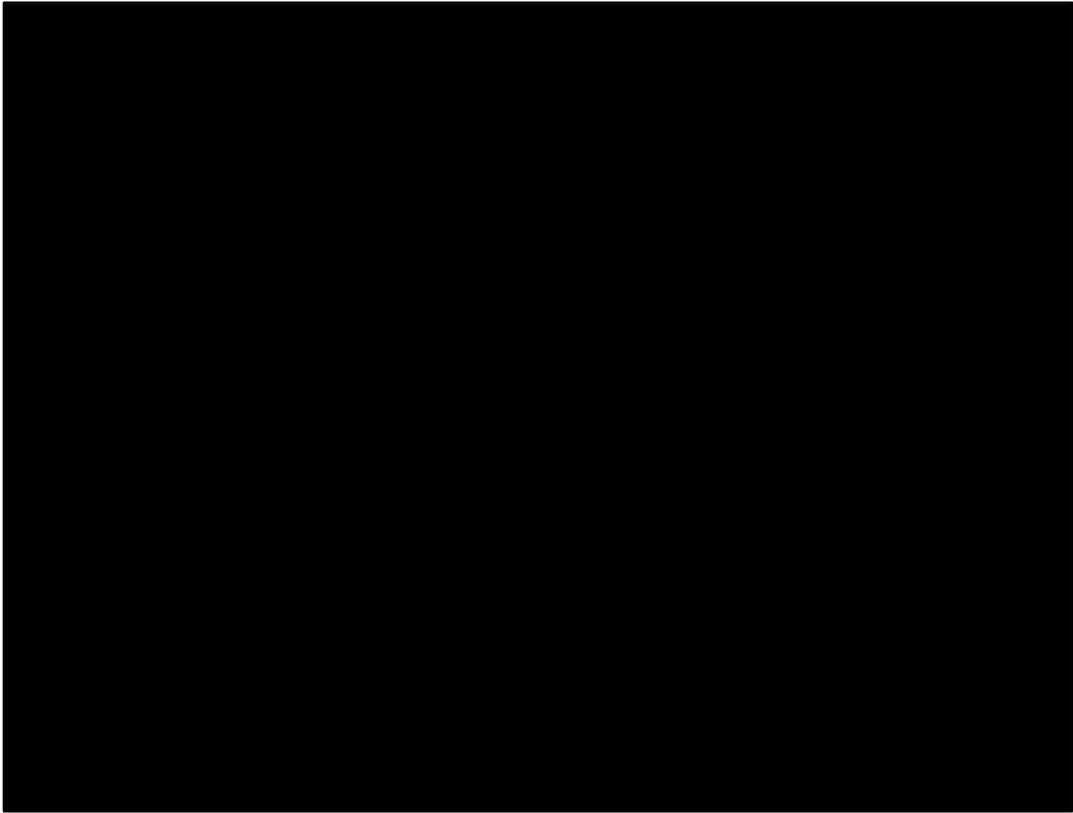
**1 Peter 3:15** – “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you for a reason for the HOPE that is within you, with meekness and fear.”

Finally

TRUE HOPE can only be found in CHRIST!

**1 Peter 3:15** – “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you for a reason for the HOPE that is within you, with meekness and fear.”

Can YOU give such an answer? Do YOU have such a HOPE?



O Lord, as we close this meeting today and go back to our homes, we ask you to watch over us. As we leave this place, we know that nothing will, by any means hurt us. Father, watch over the words You have planted in our hearts. Let your word take root and produce blessings and beautiful things in our lives. Help us to walk in Your love and to be attentive to Your prompting. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

Let us praise our God and Lord with 'In Christ alone'