

## **“A REASON OF THE HOPE”**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- I. There are 3 basic qualities that help to sustain us as Christians. 1Co.13:13
  - A. One of these elements will continue always—LOVE.
  - B. Two of these elements will cease in eternity because they have been fulfilled.
    1. Faith will be fulfilled in full knowledge and experiencing the presence of God, the redeemed and heaven itself.
    2. Hope will be fulfilled when we enjoy all the things we have always wanted and waited for. Rom. 8:24
- II. There are several basic reasons for the hope we have. 1 Pet. 3:15

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, the O.T. Scripture provides a reason of our hope.**

- A. The “written” word “aforetime” during the Patriarchal and Mosaical ages was written for our “learning” and hope. Rom. 15:4
  1. When we “learn” we become acquainted with “patience”, which teaches us to “wait” for something we don't yet possess. Rom. 8:24, 25
    - a. We want our prayers to be answered as soon as possible, but we have to “wait” for the Lord.
    - b. We want our friends and relatives to be saved, but we have to “wait” for the seed to take root in their hearts. Psa. 126:5,6
    - c. We want to live in heaven, but it requires the most patience, for we “wait” for the return of Jesus. 1 Cor. 15:23, 24; Tit. 2:11-13
  2. When we learn from the Old Testament, we are “comforted” to know that when others have been blessed, that we too will be blessed if we remain faithful. Jas. 5:11; Rev. 14:13; Rom. 8:28
- B. When we “learn”, we develop “patience” and “comfort” which gives us the reality of genuine hope. Rom. 15:4

#### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, the N.T. Scripture provides a reason of our hope.**

- A. The “gospel” reveals many things relative to our hope.
  1. The gospel reveals the **Christ** of the gospel. Col. 1:27; 1 Tim. 1:1
  2. The gospel reveals the **promise** of hope. Acts 23:6; Tit. 1:2
  3. The gospel reveals the **glory** of the Lord and expectation of sharing in that glory. Col. 1:27; 3:4; Rom. 8:17, 18; 2 Cor. 4:17, 18; 1 Jn. 3:2, 3
- B. Our hope is the anchor for our souls for eternal life in heaven. Heb. 6:17-20

#### **III. 3<sup>Rd</sup>, the Resurrection of Jesus is a reason of our hope.**

- A. Jesus' resurrection gives **us** hope for **our** resurrection from the dead. Acts 23:6; 1 Pet. 1:3, 4
- B. If Jesus was not raised, **we** will not be raised. 1 Cor. 15:17-23

### **CONCLUSION**

- I. The coming of Christ will bring the fulfillment of ALL our spiritual hopes—to be with all our loved ones who have died in Christ, and to be in heaven forever and ever. Cf 1 Thes. 4:13-18
- II. This hope can be realized by enjoying the righteousness Christ provides. John 5:28, 29; 2 Pet. 1:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 17