Our Only Hope

When Paul (after whom St. Paul’s cathedral in London is named) wrote a letter to his young friend Timothy, he was close to death. He expected to die the death of a martyr, yet he had great hope. This hope reached beyond death, for it rested on a living Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Yes, Jesus Christ is the foundation of all true hope. Without Him, only despair remains. Without His suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, the house of hope would collapse. If any one does not believe in Christ, yet still believes he has hope, he is standing on sinking sand.

Jesus Christ (not God without Christ) is a solid foundation of hope. Outside Christ, God is a consuming fire because of our sins.

Neither is man our hope. Man is fickle, unreliable, and at best short-lived. The anchor of hope has to be cast outside the boat, not in it. Happy is the man who finds all hope in himself and his fellow men
dashed to pieces. God’s Spirit has made him see how hopeless things are when grounded in man. We all need a firm anchor that will hold through all the storms of life and the final storm of death. Jesus Christ is the only trustworthy hope available to us.

Jesus Christ is also the life of hope. All hope outside Him is a dead hope. Just as a branch withers without the life sap flowing into it from the vine, so without a living bond with Christ the soul withers, and hope dies.

Jesus Christ is the only door of hope. Because of our guilt before God, all doors back to Him are closed. There is no door to God, no entrance, no access to Him. As a result, we have no hope. We see no deliverance.

Yet, it is exactly here, in our hopelessness, that Jesus Christ becomes our door of hope. Once we see this, we begin to feel our need of Him. And even if this door is opened only a little, how encouraging to find that there is still room for us, unworthy though we are to go in.

We ourselves have shut the door on God. Yet in Christ a door is opened that we can never open ourselves. It is never too much trouble to Christ to open the door
into God to a poor lost sinner who is knocking, and who longs to enter in.

Can you say with Paul: “Jesus Christ . . . is our hope”? Is He your hope, your only hope? Is He the solid foundation on whom you rest your faith? Is He the immovable rock to which your hope holds fast? Is He the source of life to you? Is He the open door through whom you have passed into fellowship with God?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and your hope will be secure, in life and in death, for time and for eternity. And nothing on earth or from hell shall be able to rob you of your hope.

Adapted from Frans Bakker, Dutch preacher

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