

Christian life
at BCF

A morning of song, word ministry & testimony

Jesus Christ *our* living hope

9.30AM SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025



The need for hope and reconciliation

We live in a world that is marked, for many people, by hopelessness, disappointment and regret. People everywhere are weighed down by anxiety, loneliness, and uncertainty. These experiences are not merely social or psychological phenomena; they testify to the deeper reality of separation from the heavenly Father, who is the source of all peace and joy. Our destiny, lovingly predetermined by God before the world began, is to abide with Him forever as His children, born of His life and made in His image. The Bible reveals that our separation from this high calling, together with the suffering and death that characterise this fallen world, began when mankind rejected God as the origin of all life and blessing. They did this in preference for a life and purpose of their own choosing. While free to choose this alternative, the whole human race was then subject to the unavoidable consequence of this choice. Separated from God as the only source of life and blessing, mankind would now suffer and die under the curse of sin. Summarising the wretched state of man because of this rebellion, the Bible declares, 'Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.' Rom 5:12.

Because God is rich in mercy, He did not leave us in our hopeless condition. Even before mankind chose their own way, God's plan of salvation has been to reconcile us to Himself and to establish us in the hope of eternal life. This reconciliation has already been accomplished for every person through Jesus Christ, who came into the world as the full expression of God's love. Remarkably, the Bible explains that this love was extended towards us while we were God's enemies. 'But God demonstrates His own love

toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. *For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son*, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.’ Rom 5:8-10. With this as our orientation, let us consider the extraordinary hope that has been made available through the good news of Jesus Christ.



The hope of salvation

Jesus came to reveal, through His life and teaching, the love of the Father for all mankind. If we are willing to hear, receive and obey His message, He likened us to wise men and women who are building their lives upon a Rock. This sure foundation becomes the hope that sustains us through every season of life. Hope, as it is revealed in the Bible, is not the uncertain optimism of human longing, but rather the sure promise of God offered to all who believe in Jesus. In essence, this hope is that we would be raised from the dead to eternal life as a son of God. Jesus Himself said, ‘And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and *believes in Him* may have everlasting life; and *I will raise him up at the last day*.’ Joh 6:40.

The Bible teaches us that salvation is *only* found in Jesus Christ. Act 4:12. Through believing in Jesus, we can be established in the sure hope of living forever in relationship with God. It is a ‘hope’ because the fullness of salvation will ultimately be seen when those who have trusted in Jesus as their Saviour are raised to immortality at the end of the age. This is called ‘the resurrection’, which is the hope of salvation. Rom 8:23-24. For this reason, the resurrection

of Jesus, following His death on the cross, is the centre point of human history and is the focus of the ‘good news’ of the gospel. In a world that was suffering under the effects of sin and rebellion against God, eternal life and immortality were revealed through the resurrection of Jesus. This ‘new life’ is one of peace, contentment and joy, and was made freely available to all who believe in Him.

Wonderfully, the hope that is found in Jesus is not simply a future reward. Rather, a Christian person touches the substance of this promise here and now as they continue to trust and believe in Him. Heb 11:1. For this reason, even in the face of hardship and contradiction, the believer can confidently say, ‘I have been hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; confused at times, though never in despair; persecuted, but never forsaken; struck down, yet not destroyed. Through it all, the life of Jesus is sustaining me.’ 2Co 4:8-10.



You must be born again

In a secret meeting with a prominent religious leader named Nicodemus, Jesus explained that a person can be reborn spiritually and thus be lifted above the corruption and death that defines this fallen world. He said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’, and ‘Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’

Joh 3:3-8. When a person is born again, everything of their old life has passed away, and all things have become new. The Bible declares, ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, *all things have become new.*’ 2Co 5:17. This teaches us that

a *Christian* is a person who, through faith in Jesus, has been born again to a completely new life. They have received God's life into their human spirit, causing them to become a son of God who is able to live by the divine nature within them.

It was for this purpose that God sent His Son into the world; a profound truth captured in the words of Jesus Himself. Continuing His discussion with Nicodemus, Jesus declared, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.' Joh 3:16-17. These timeless words *are* the gospel of Christ. This *is* the good news! By the work of Jesus, we have all been forgiven and reconciled again to God. All we must do is choose to believe in Him and thus receive this most precious gift. 1Jn 5:1.



Born to a living hope

New birth delivers us to a deep and personal knowing of God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. Jesus Himself taught that this 'knowing' *is eternal life*. Having been born again, the Christian person continues to walk by faith, believing that nothing in this life (no hardship, sickness, sorrow, or even death) can separate them from the love that God has for them in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8:39. To believe in Jesus, then, is to believe in the love that God has for us. The simple confession of those who have come to Jesus is, 'We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.' 1Jn 4:16.

As we have already seen, to experience ‘the resurrection’ is the hope in which we are saved. During His ministry on earth, Jesus proclaimed that He *is* the resurrection. Joh 11:25. When a person receives the good news of salvation and believes, they are born again to this *living hope*. 1Pe 1:3. Their hope is living because it is Jesus Himself who lives in them as their personal Lord and Saviour. Gal 2:20. Heb 7:25. Through the Holy Spirit, they can be born of God and joined to the life of His Son. In this way, they no longer struggle under the weight of guilt and shame because of sin but are made to share in God’s own nature. 2Pe 1:4. Gal 2:20. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and because He lives, we too can live forever with Him. Joh 11:25.

We noted earlier that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our hope. When He rose from the dead, He destroyed death, securing eternal sonship for all who believe. His resurrection is not merely a past event but a living reality into which we are being drawn. We share in His resurrection life when we live, each day, by the same Spirit that raised Him from the dead. Rom 8:11. In this way, the hope of the believer is not confined to the end of the age. Rather, it begins now, as the life of Jesus works within us, renewing our hearts and minds. We, who were once far off, have been brought near to God the Father, and the life of His Son is now revealed in us. Eph 2:13.



Jesus is the hope and anchor of our soul

The journey of our life is marked by many seasons—times of hardship, and of prosperity; some filled with sorrow, and others with joy; seasons of plenty and times of want. These experiences are common to us all, as are the feelings of

anxiety, fear and loneliness that can result from such uncertainty. The promise contained in the Bible is that, even when everything around us is changing and we feel disoriented and afraid, Jesus Christ is the sure foundation that will never change or fail. He is the Rock upon which we can build our lives, confident in the knowledge that He is with us always. In Jesus Christ, we find an anchor for our soul; a *hope* both sure and steadfast that sustains us in every season of life. When everything around us changes, He remains the same – faithful, loving, gentle, and kind. As Christian people, we can know peace in every circumstance of life, secure in the promise that God the Father, who gave us new life, will complete His work of salvation through Jesus Christ, the steadfast anchor of our soul.

We all must choose whether we will believe in the love of God revealed in Jesus or continue to struggle under the heavy burden of life without Him. The emotions of anxiety, fear and depression define the hopelessness experienced by so many in the world today. However, for us who believe in Jesus, He Himself is our ‘living hope’. Through Him, we have been reconciled to God, born into a new life, and secured in the promise of resurrection. This hope anchors our soul, transforms our life, and grants us peace with God. True hope is found only in Christ, who died and rose again. He is both the source and the substance of our salvation — the One who loved us, reconciled us, and now lives in us. Let us hold fast to this hope without wavering, for God, who promised us salvation through Jesus, is always faithful. Heb 10:23.



A moment to reflect ...
questions to help you respond

1. When life feels uncertain, we all reach for something to give us stability and confidence – success, relationships, money, health. What have you been trusting in to keep you steady, and has it been enough to sustain you during times of difficulty or stress?
2. Christians find hope in Jesus that sustains them through every season of life. By this hope, they can even face death itself with peace, knowing they will be with God forever. What about you? Are you confident that you could face the end of your life with confidence and certainty?
3. Have you ever looked back on your life and thought, “God could never love me, look at all the mistakes I’ve made”? Many people feel this way, but the truth is that God’s love for us is not based on our performance. We do not earn God’s love; we simply receive it as we hear the good news about Jesus and believe. Have you ever felt unworthy or disqualified based on your past? Will you choose to believe in the love that God has for you today?

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Christian
FELLOWSHIP

40 Burton Lane,
Samford Valley, QLD

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