Holding On to Hope

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Colossians 1:27 Christ in you the hope of glory Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death 1 Timothy 2:5 There is one mediator between Revelation 20:12 A book was opened, which is Exod. 12:5 Your lamb shall be without blemish 2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for 1 John 1:7 If we walk in the light—His Blood

- 1 We all need hope—a living hope—and it is a promise God gives us so we can *hold on to* that *hope*.
- 2 It is a hope that is not a mystery—AV Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- **3** The Ten Commandments God wrote on tablets of stone remind us we have *all* sinned. God *said* it, and we *disobeyed* it.
- **4** He knew everyone would sin, so He provided a way to correct that costly mistake.
- **5** People are *supposed* to act right, but often do not and break laws. Then a judge gets involved who can only judge based on the law.
- **6** If there is a law on books, it is everyone's responsibility to obey it. If the law is broken, a judge looks at the law and at the evidence and makes a decision.
- 7 Since everyone has broken God's laws, everyone needs the charges dropped, but a judge

- cannot just drop charges, as it would be a dereliction of duty.8 The only option is a mediator—someone
- **8** The only option is a mediator—someone who steps in between the two parties and takes the penalty for the accused.
- **9** Since everyone is guilty of sin, we need the record of our sins expunged, so there would be nothing for the judge to judge. We all need our sins erased prior to standing before God.
- **10** The Word gives hope—AV Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- **11** The *Gift* is the *hope* we hold on to by our faith in the sacrifice at Calvary. AV 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."
- **12** We all eventually stand before God AV Revelation 20:12 "Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."
- **13** Sinners are guilty and heading toward the Pit unless their sentence is commuted.
- 14 Israel had to bring a perfect animal without any imperfection before God Exodus 12:5.
- **15** They would take the animal to the tent of the meeting, put their hands on it and confess their sins. The animal would then be sacrificed.
- **16** AV Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls."
- **17** God requires a perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.
- **18** Many think they can get to Heaven by being a decent person; not deliberately hurting anyone; not stealing anything—or just being honest in all dealings with others.
- **19** God is holy, pure, and without sin—He cannot tolerate iniquity and rebellion—it is completely against His character.

- **20** Our sins must be dealt with in the proper way. Only One can forgive sins—*God* alone—He wants a *perfect* blood sacrifice to atone for those sins.
- **21** We hold on to hope—knowing that Jesus made the sacrifice for us. AV **2** Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the right-eousness of God in him."
- **22** Jesus having no sin was a perfect sacrifice. He laid down His life and was crucified on a Cross to pay the debt of everyone's sin.
- **23** He knew that AV **Hebrews 9:22** "Without shedding of blood is no remission."
- **24** Serving the living God means trusting the Blood of Jesus for everything in this life—health, healing, provisions, a forgiving attitude toward everyone, and trusting God for protection each day.
- **25** AV **1 John 1:7** "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the **blood** of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from **all sin**."
- **26** This is *life-changing* for all who will believe and trust God in faith. If we really *believe* in what His sacrifice really means, our life will never be the same.
- **27** Only Jesus as God could make the required sacrifice. Without such shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness.
- **28** AV **1** John **2:2** "He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."
- 29 It is a *Substitute* paying the *penalty* of everyone's sins. When there is a breach between two parties and peace is needed between them, this is what propitiation does—propitiation means approval.

- **30** God must approve and be *satisfied* with the payment for those transgressions for the two parties to be on the same page.
- **31** AV 1 John 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins"—giving the hope we hold on to.
- **32** His Blood brings *life* and carries away *death* through sin—*that* is what the Blood of Christ will do for anyone who places their trust in His shed Blood.
- **33** Church membership is *not* a blood sacrifice so does not remove sins; confessing does *not* involve blood so cannot either; good deeds do *not* include blood and would not erase sins.
- **34** The devil deceives many into thinking something is true when it is *not* true. Good *works* may get a person a promotion or a raise in *pay*, but it will not make a person right with God.
- **35** All the sacrificed animals of the Old Testament are pointing to the Lord Jesus in the New Testament.
- **36** If we took a white T-shirt and tapped it with an ink pen, it is no longer a clean white T-shirt.
- **37** AV James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Breaking one commandment is the same as breaking all of them.
- **38** Understanding God's *quality* of *holiness* means knowing He does not take sin lightly, but very seriously.
- **39** We need to bring Him the *right gift*—which is our *entire life* and *complete faith* in His sinless sacrifice of Atonement. Anything else will *not* suffice *nor* erase our sin.
- **40** The world today is doing everything possible to prevent stealing and puts sensors on merchandise and sensors at exits to set off alarms.

- **41** There are, however, *no sensors* at the gates of Heaven—which would go off only if our sins had not been deleted.
- **42** It will not happen that way because it would be too late. We cannot make a decision to repent of our sins after leaving this life—it must be made in this life. Av 2 Corinthians 6:2 "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
- **43** No one can face a Holy God unless they are cleansed of sin by a *perfect trust* on the *perfect sacrifice* of the Lord Jesus.
- 44 God says to reason this out AV Isaiah 1:18 "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." This is by repenting and trusting on the atoning Blood of Jesus.
- **45** The *final act* is coming; the *last call* will be given; and the *closing words* of the Bible have been written.
- **46** AV Revelation 12:11 "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."
- **47** The *fulfillment* of Scripture is on the horizon—if we are not trusting on the perfect Blood of the Perfect Lamb when we meet God, it will be the worst mistake we will ever make.
- **48** The end of the road is just ahead, and the judgment of God is arriving soon.
- **49** What an incredible gift is offered—everlasting life with the King of kings just by believing and trusting on something *He did* for *us!*
- **50** Today is the day to allow God to prepare us for that *remarkable* day! *This* life is the *only* life we have to be ready for the next one.
- **51** It is the *hope we hold on to*—allowing Him to teach us what we need to know in order to enter His kingdom.

- **52** Today is that opportunity to learn spiritual lessons from Him. If we choose correctly, He will see that we *are* ready.
- 53 The last words of the last book have been written—AV Revelation 22:21 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."
- **54** We are saved by *grace*; but judged by *works*. God gives us *hope* for the future and *hope* to enter His kingdom—as we keep *serving* Him; *loving* others; and *treating* them as He told us to treat them.
- **55** *Holding On to Hope* is reading the Word and following the instructions.
- 56 NLT Hebrews 6:11 "Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true."



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