

# 1 PETER 1:3 -“A LIVING HOPE”

“Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Christian rejoices in an endless hope.”

-- Gilbert Beenken

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His **abundant mercy** has **begotten us again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

## “abundant mercy”

- Abundant!
- **πολύς** [*polus* /pol·oos/] adj. Including the forms from the alternate pollos; TDNT 6:536; GK 4498; 365 occurrences; AV translates as “many” 210 times, “much” 73 times, “great” 59 times, and translated miscellaneously 23 times. <sup>1</sup> many, much, large.

### **Psalm 86:5, 15**

**5** For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And **abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.**

**15** But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and **abundant in mercy** and truth.

### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

**4** But God, who is **rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

## “A living hope”

“**hope**” - *elpis* (1680)), in the N.T., favorable and confident expectation. It has to do with the unseen and the future, Rom. 8:24, 25. <sup>2</sup>

## N.T. definition of hope:

**Romans 8:24-25** **For we were saved in this hope**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

- We are literally “begotten / born” into a “living hope.”
  - What was the womb? the tomb of Christ!
  - He was the “first born” and we are all the “second borns.”
  - **Sophocles**: “not to be born at all – that is by far the best fortune; the second best is as soon as one is born with all speed to return thither whence one has come.”

## In the N.T. **three adjectives** are descriptive of hope:

1. **“good,”** 2 Thess. 2:16;

**2 Thessalonians 2:16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and **good hope** by grace,

2. **“blessed,”** Tit. 2:13;

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adj **adj**: adjective

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

GK Goodrick-Kohlenberger

AV Authorized Version

1 Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) (G4183). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

2 Vine, W. E., *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell) 1981.

**Titus 2:13** looking for the **blessed hope** and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

3. **“living,”** 1 Pet. 1:3. <sup>3</sup>

- **He that lives in hope dances without a fiddle.**  
- Arabian Proverb
- **Hope has a thick skin and will endure many a blow; it will put on patience as a vestment, it will wade through a sea of blood, it will endure all things if it be of the right kind, for the joy that is set before it. Hence patience is called "patience of hope," because it is hope that makes the soul exercise patience and long-suffering under the cross, until the time comes to enjoy the crown.** - **John Bunyan** (1628–1688)

**In what is our hope realized?**

**The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead!**

**1 Corinthians 15:13 - 19** But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. <sup>15</sup>Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. <sup>16</sup>For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! <sup>18</sup>Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. **<sup>19</sup>If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

**Our God is the God of Hope: the author of hope, not the subject of hope:**

**Romans 15:13** <sup>13</sup>Now may the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Hebrews 6:17-20** <sup>17</sup>Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath, <sup>18</sup>that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of **the hope** set before us. **<sup>19</sup>This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil, <sup>20</sup>where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever.** . . .

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3 Vine, W. E., *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell) 1981.