

## The Mystery Revealed

In this fourth and final message regarding hope, I'd like to dispel the mystery that it seems to be.

Hope is something internal, it is something felt and not seen. It is the knowledge that "all things work together for good to them that love God\*...".

When you look at the Gospels, you know that hope is not a mystery. The mystery of eternal life and salvation were revealed through Jesus Christ. Not just that he lived, but by his death and resurrection.

*Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: Romans 16:25-26*

But let's be real. We are humans living in a world of material things. Things we need to survive. Food, clothing, shelter. Our hope is that we are able to be provided with these things. Through what ever means necessary. Yet, we tend to forget that we will be provided for. We forget that God knows of our needs before we even need them.

*But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. . Matthew 6:7-8*

We are all guilty of that "forgetting". I know I am. Worry and anxiety takes hold and I become distraught, sometime to the point of disfunction. Then I remember the passage above and my hope returns. My worry fades away as I take a deep breath and say to myself "God is in control". Not an easy thing given my propensity to OCD.

More than our daily needs though, the mystery God revealed through Christ, gives us eternal life. Knowing I will again be reunited with those who have gone on before. Knowing that one day I will open my eyes in Glory with no pain, or heartache: no tears, or illness.

*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom which is Christ in you, the hope of glory God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles;:*

*Colossians 1:26-27*

"which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"... You can personalize that by saying "Christ in me". When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, he dwells within you. And, with that indwelling, is your hope.

Hope is not a mystery. Hope is alive through Jesus. Hope can be alive in you because of Jesus. All you must do is open your heart to Him. If you have never accepted Jesus as your savior, perhaps it is time that you do. Perhaps it is time for you to look at where your hope comes from.

Read this excerpt from “You Can Get Through It” to see just how easy it is to have that hope.

Salvation is available for all of us. The road to salvation is already mapped out for us and it starts with the A, B, C’s.

- A – Admit that you are a sinner
- B – Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the savior
- C – Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

*That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:9, 13*

We do not receive salvation through anything we can do but only through the grace that was given to us through Christ.

*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 2 Timothy 1:8a & 9*

How is this salvation received? Through a conversation with God. That may sound a little odd or intimidating, it is not. No eloquent words need to be spoken, no religious doctrine must be quoted, just the bowing of your head and the opening of your heart.

*Dear Father, I ADMIT that I am a sinner and a broken human being. I BELIEVE in my heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. I CONFESS with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and ask you to come into my heart and save me from eternal death. Amen.*

No, I am not a biblical scholar, nor am I a wise and learned theologian. What I am is a Christian who believes that salvation is our only hope to eternal life.

May these words, that I’ve been guided by God to write, bring you a new hope.



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\*Taken from Romans 8:28