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Here's Hope  
by Rev. Jerry Rea

### The Hope of Glory

Life has a way of draining you. It's all the frustrations, all the worries, all the struggles - and that's just when things are going well. Then, there are times of extreme troubles - like when someone gets sick - or death is threatening. When the money dries up, our optimism often dries up with it. And every day is a new challenge. Someone said it right - the problem with life is that it's so "daily." Here's another struggle - in the midst of all this our bodies are getting older - so that every day is an exercise in adjustment. Then, to top it all off Christians are called to a higher standard. We are called, not only to go through all the day to day life struggles... we are called to do it with a good attitude. We are called to be Christ-like.

It's enough to make a person despair of this life and long for the next one. You do know there's another life don't you? The Bible speaks glowingly about a forever place. And it speaks frankly, about all that will not be there. There are no troubles, no worries, no sin nor death. Satan will not be able to tempt us, in fact - he will not even be allowed there. The presence of Christ is the essence of heaven - all that He has been for us here, He will be the more, there. And, as I look forward to that place I can pick up my tired foot and place it out ahead again.

But, some might say, how do you know for sure that there is a heaven... or that the promises of the Bible are true? Well, for one thing - within His followers Christ Himself dwells. He lives in us through His Holy Spirit. And that's what Colossians 1:27 means - "Christ *in you*... the hope of glory." As He lives in us... He is the promise of future glory. I can believe easily in what He's gonna do (then), because of what He's already doing (now). So heaven looms large on my horizon... and all I have to do to find that spark of hope I need is "stand on Jordan's stormy banks" and look over to the Promised Land "where my possessions lie."

Now, if we stopped right here that would be enough. But there is another meaning of Colossians 1:27, equally true. His dwelling in us now, means we experience the hope of glory now. See, I have hope for this life as well as the one to come. I have hope of glory - here. What type of glory here? The glory of walking with Him - there's nothing like that. There's nothing like that internal presence that you feel but it's hard to tell others about. And each day (here), while we push forward to glory there, we're changed... from glory to glory. Yes, things are happening on the outside - but there's something happening inside as well! And all the darkness on the outside, can't extinguish the candle on the inside.

Hoping for the Glory,

Bro Jerry