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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

Do You Remember Clackers?

Do you remember clackers? You know, the two plastic balls on a string that were so much the style several years ago? Many children and youth had bruises from having a collision with them. We all knew they were just a phase, but that didn't keep us from... "clacking." They were taken off the market in fear that someone would be injured. Talk about a dangerous toy. In my mind clackers belong in the category of 8 track tapes and Rubik's cubes. They were here for a moment, then gone. By contrast, I'm glad that what we have in Jesus endures. In fact, we used to sing a song that starts "Now I've a hope that will surely endure, after the passing of time." Our hope endures. It is so enduring that we can build our lives on it. The hope of tomorrow in Jesus is stronger than the ups and downs of today. Interest rates go up and down, but hope endures. Habits of church life seem to change by the minute, but hope in Jesus endures. Styles of clothing change from season to season, but our hope remains. It anchors us in something that is not movable, changeable, or destroyable.

Hope is called a "*blessed*" thing in Scripture. The word blessed (granted, an old KJV word) can be seen as "happy." We have a happy hope. It makes us happy to have hope in Jesus. Our hope brings comfort (1 Thess. 4:18). Our hope encourages through His presence (1 Thess. 5:9-10). Our hope works out into Christian maturity and greater and greater faith. If you're hopeful, you are usually not fearful. If you have hope, you can face tomorrow. If you believe in something, you look forward to today and tomorrow instead of living in yesterday. Our hope is like a rudder to guide us instead of an anchor to hold us back. Surely, it is a blessed thing. Happiness and hope go together.

Our hope is also *sure*. Most of the time the word "hope" communicates some measure of doubt. Contrast the words *hope* and *know*. Knowing some things, we do not doubt. If we hope in things, we believe, but we (if truthful) don't really know. Our hope is as sure as the word of God. When He says something, it is true. If it were not true, then God would be a liar. He does not promise and then not fulfill. He does not say one thing today, then change His mind tomorrow. Your hope is as sure as the abiding, eternal, sure word of God. Do you have a friend that you love but can't fully trust? If he says he will be there tomorrow, you believe him but *you'll see*. He is good, but he is human. God is not that way because He always comes through. You can depend on God. Your hope in Him is secure.

God is not like clackers,
Jerry Rea