



Christ Our Hope In Life

Key idea:

Christians have a firm foundation for hope each day because of God's character, His sovereignty, and the return of Jesus to make all things new.

Key text:

Psalm 118:22-26

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; ²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

Key points:

1. Christian hope rests not in circumstances, but in Christ himself.
2. Joy comes from knowing God is the God of hope.
3. The more we practice living in hope on good days, the better prepared we are for difficult times.
4. Our hope is founded on God's character, His sovereignty, and the promise of Christ's return.
5. Giving thanks daily nurtures our ability to see God's hand at work in all circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways can we practice 'sweating in peace' to prepare for spiritual challenges, as Bret analogized from General Schwarzkopf's quote?
2. Bret mentioned that "joy requires a foundation of hope." How have you experienced this in your own life?

3. Reflect on Psalm 118:24 - "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." What does it mean to rejoice in the day the Lord has made, even when circumstances are difficult or confusing?
4. How does understanding Jesus as the 'stone the builders rejected' that became the 'capstone' impact our view of God's work in confusing or difficult times?
5. The teaching highlighted three foundations for hope: God's character, God's sovereignty, and Christ's return. Which of these do you find most encouraging, and why?
6. How does our culture's emphasis on human autonomy conflict with the biblical view of God's sovereignty? How can we maintain trust in God's control amid life's uncertainties?
7. How can meditating on Christ's return and eternity provide hope and perspective in the face of life's challenges and sorrows?
8. Bret stressed the importance of giving thanks daily. How might this practice shape our perspective and strengthen our hope?
9. Discuss the statement: "Christian hope rests not in circumstances, but in Christ himself." How does this challenge or encourage you?

Practical Applications:

1. Set a daily reminder to give thanks to God for specific blessings or ways you've seen His work in your life.
2. Choose one aspect of God's character (e.g., His goodness, faithfulness) to meditate on and sing about this week.
3. Memorize a verse about God's sovereignty or Christ's return to reflect on during challenging times.
4. Practice sharing with others how God's character, sovereignty, or the promise of Christ's return gives you hope.
5. Listen to and reflect on the lyrics of the song "[This is the Day](#)" by City Alight throughout the week.
6. At the end of each day this week, identify one way you saw God at work, even in small or unexpected ways.