



HOPE
FOR LIFE

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect

Who's Asking About Hope?

- ★ Peter's background is "Pax Romana"
- ★ two centuries of military tranquility
- ★ political unity & economic stability
- ★ technological innovation & philosophical insight
- ★ *carpe diem!*

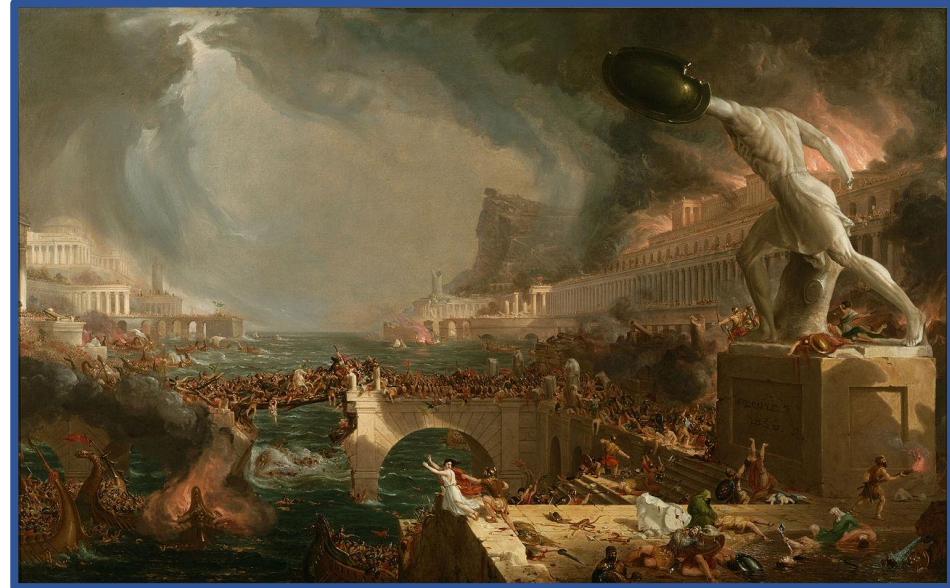


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How's It Working Out?

- ★ women are property & slaves
are animals
- ★ superstitions & sacrifices
- ★ promiscuity & perversion
- ★ corruption & discrimination
- ★ famines & infections, long days & short lives



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New & Improved Humanity?

- ★ capture & manufacture satisfaction
- ★ extended life & increased leisure
- ★ Highly actualized in self-expression
- ★ mastered earth & entered outer space
- ★ cooperation & tolerance



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Who Needs Christian Hope?

- ★ Obsolete & irrelevant
- ★ Arrogant & annoying
- ★ Inconsistent & dishonest
- ★ Delusional & persecuted
- ★ Ludicrous doctrines & silly rituals & traditions



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Are We Happy?

- ★ pain persists despite progress & prosperity
- ★ pursuing productivity, make deals with death
- ★ which compounds suffering & conflict
- ★ not celebrating but “settling”
- ★ our sinfulness prefers hurting on our terms to delighting on God’s



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Nevertheless, Hope Persists!

- ★ God doesn't give up so easily
- ★ After the dust settles, hope stands
- ★ Christ Jesus has come and undertakes as Lord
- ★ engages our failings and abides in our adversities
- ★ accompanies sufferers and brings God to our need



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Lord Jesus Puts Hope Everywhere!

- ★ already brought forgiveness from crucifixion
- ★ takes every hardship & turns it to hope
- ★ does what's best instead of what's easiest
- ★ redeems people and their most awful experiences
- ★ transforms our situations into His instruments

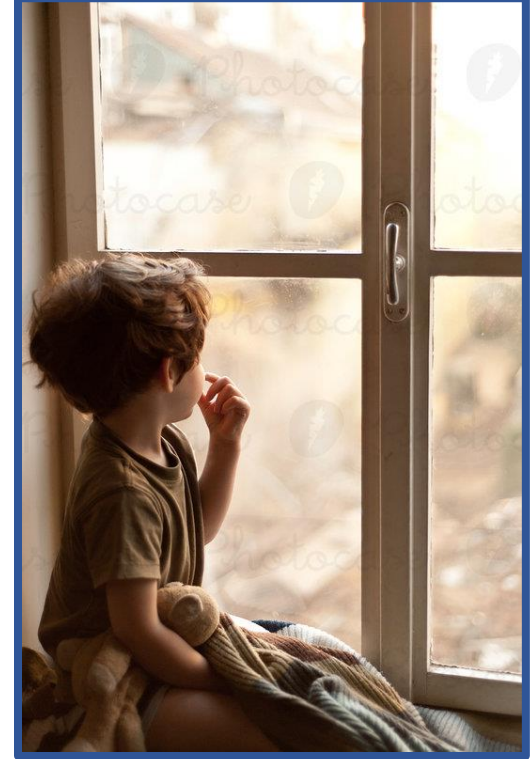


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They Will Inquire About Our Hope ...

- ★ unintended pregnancy? “you knit me together!”
- ★ abnormalities? “power from God and not us!”
- ★ conflicted marriage? “His workmanship in His image!”
- ★ incapacitated? “He who began will bring completion!”



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... and We'll give them a reason for hope

- ★ infertility? “He will give us all things!”
- ★ incurable? “momentary affliction vs. eternal glory!”
- ★ terminal? “whether we live or die we are the Lord’s!”



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There's Hope Even in This and For You!

- ★ **H**umanity even in suffering
- ★ **O**ppportunity also in uncertainty
- ★ **P**romise even in weakness
- ★ **E**njoyment also in unexpected
- ★ wherever there's life, there's God's grace and Christ's compassion



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