



Where Is Your Hope...?

Have you noticed that everywhere you look, perils seem to loom? I don't recall a time when any era was more rife with crises than this one!

I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul said to his friend Timothy, "In the last days perilous times shall come?"¹ Is this the problem? Our 'times in which we now live? Some think so. But with everything that seems out of control, is anyone *in control*? That depends on who you ask.

Does it require faith to have hope? No, people have hope in many things, including hope itself. They merely coast through life and sort of 'hope' everything works out. I think this is where most people find themselves. I once read that the five most deceptive words in the English language are, *maybe things will get better*. So... is this real hope? No.

Worldly people place their hope in doctors, political parties, science, mates or family. Truth is, these will ultimately fail us in the end. We are mere mortals, imperfect. We need something beyond ourselves, and until we recognize that, pride will spoil the route to safety and peace.

If the topic is 'hope', where does hope come from...? The Apostle Peter clues us in when he says, "Be ready to give account for the *hope* within you..." So apparently hope is *visible*! And it belongs to those who believe in God's sovereignty! It depends on whether our hope is horizontal - or vertical in God - as to whether we have it. God is the reason for our hope, because He is unchanging. All else is false hope!

Many people are now worried about our nation's future... *both* parties seem impotent and anemic in leadership qualities.! With our national debt just topping \$17Trillion, that's a valid concern! Yet with everything, our God reigns! Yes, behind the scenes, He's still *in control*!

America is more than a country...it is an 'idea'. Problem. America is less & less a land of ideas! People are resigned to be spoon fed ideas, rather than think! Critical thinking & deductive reasoning aren't on the agenda of American colleges! People are often no fresher than the last voice they heard! *Small minds talk about people. Average minds talk about events. Great minds talk about ideas!* What say you...?

We can RISE to a new level today by choosing to love the truth –*where hope resides!* Scripture says in the last days, if we don't love truth, WE WILL EMBRACE **lies**. That's because when you reject truth, there is nothing left but lies. What man has said about God has said just does not cut it. Pat Robertson said, "Some of these traditional church services are about as exciting as a leg cramp." Church 'as usual', that isn't about what God's about – souls; or does not worship in spirit and truth; nor do they embrace scripture as God's love letter to us all, just may not be where God wants you and certainly not where you can thrive.

Go where 'life' is, where people are excited, who love one another and there is a family atmosphere! Be a part of that family because Jesus said *that* is how the world will KNOW we are His, if, I repeat if, we have love for one another in the body of Christ.

In the end, there's really only one viable place to place your hope and you can find that among those who worship God and cherish His Holy Word...

