

What is hope?

Webster's: 1. a feeling that what is wanted will happen
2. the object of this
3. a person or thing on which one may base some hope

➤ First, a reminder: We are all going to die

Doctrine of Christian Hope for the Future

Christians do not anchor hope on ourselves or on mankind's ability to solve the world's problems... no human or idol (*see definition 3 above*)

No political philosophy or ideology should be confused as Christian hope

The Hope of the Jewish people from early on was not for a new world, but for a new king... a messiah

Optimism vs. pessimism

While humans cannot perfect themselves, "we can and must do what we can to achieve at least a little more justice and humanity... in God's world."

So, what do we have hope in? The crucified and risen Christ

Why is our hope justified? Because God has already overthrown death

We have hope in the Power of God over the power of death

Christian hope means death is not the last word... not the end, but a fulfillment

Breaking news: Our souls are *not* immortal!

- God alone is immortal
- The body is not inferior to the soul... both die as a complete unit
- Our hope is based on God's promise to *give us* eternal life
- Eternal life is a gift, not something we can earn
- But because of who the gift-giver is, we have hope

Apostles' Creed: "I believe... the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting."

Our hope is in the creative power of God who can call life into being out of nothing