

Expectation of Heaven

Romans 15

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

May 10, 2026



1. Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is confident expectation rooted in Jesus and produces joy, peace, and endurance.
2. The *who* of our hope is Jesus. “In Him shall the Gentiles hope” (Romans 15:12). Hope placed in anything else is unstable and uncertain.
3. The *what* of our hope is Heaven. Eternal life is a promised, rock-solid destination for believers.
4. Life after death is real. Believers immediately enter God’s presence, while unbelievers await final judgment.
5. Heaven is a real physical place prepared by Jesus, not just a state of consciousness or imagination.
6. God will destroy the present fallen creation and create a completely new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells.
7. The New Jerusalem is Heaven’s capital city. It is filled with beauty, brilliance, activity, and the glory of God.
8. The greatest reality of Heaven is the presence of God. There will be no more death, pain, mourning, crying, or curse of sin.
9. Heaven is completely secure and pure. Nothing unclean enters, and God Himself is the light and center of all worship.
10. The only way into Heaven is through Jesus Christ. The greatest thing about Heaven is being forever with Him.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Elpis (el-pece´); to anticipate, (with pleasure); expectation or confidence

Perisseuō (per-is-syoo'-o) *to be in excess, to superabound or excel* :- enough and to spare

Kaianos [kahee-nos'] (**new**) something fresh, never before seen

Technites (tekh-nee'-tace) [architect] an *artisan*; (*Creator*):- craftsman

Kosmos (kos'-mos); orderly *arrangement*, i.e. *decoration*

QUOTES

“There is to be an end of the material heavens and earth which we know. It is not that they are to be purified and rehabilitated, but that the reverse of creation is to take place. They are to be uncreated. As they came from nothing at the word of God, they are to be sucked back into nothingness by this same word of God”

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse – 1971

“Shining is not from any material combustion, not from any consumption of fuel that needs to be replaced as one supply burns out; for it is the uncreated light of Him who is light...”

J. A. Seiss

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Who You Say I Am
Living Hope
Great Is Their Faithfulness

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There's a big difference between wishing something were true and knowing it will be. So be honest - where in your daily life does your 'hope' feel more like a wish than a rock-solid certainty? What makes that drift so easy?

Mark anchored hope in both a Who and a What - Jesus and Heaven. Why does it matter that hope isn't just about a destination - but a Person? How does your actual, day-to-day relationship with Jesus shape the way you feel about your future? How would you specifically like it to do so even more?

Gold streets, crystal rivers, the tree of life - all are awesome things for us to look forward to in heaven! But Mark said the greatest feature of Heaven is the unfiltered, face-to-face presence of God. What does it say about where you are spiritually if that's genuinely the most exciting part to you? What if it isn't yet?

Solomon had everything - wealth, wisdom, influence - and he chased every available source of satisfaction. He came to the conclusion that nothing in the world worked, because God has wired eternity into every human heart (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Where do you see that reality playing out in the people around you, or honestly, in yourself?

Biblical hope isn't passive. Rather, it's supposed to push out anxiety, bitterness, and fear, and replace them with joy, peace, and perseverance. So where do you need to actually apply that hope this week? Not as a wish or desire, but as a choice?