

*“For The Hope which Is Laid Up for you in Heaven, whereof ye heard before in the Word of the Truth of the Gospel; Which Is Come unto you, as it is in all the world; and Bringeth forth Fruit, as it Doth also in you, since the day ye heard of It, and knew the Grace of God in Truth.” Colossians 1:5-6 KJV*



The Believer's hope is in Heaven with Christ. Their *“faith is the substance of things HOPED FOR, the evidence of THINGS NOT SEEN!”* Christmas is when we celebrate the First Coming of God as a Man (*The Word Made Flesh. John 1*). There will be a Second Coming of Christ, *“the Word Made Flesh,”* as the Glorified Eternal Risen LORD, because He Promised, *“And if I Go, I Will Come again.”* He Did Go: *“While they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He Went Up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel: Which also said, ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, Shall So Come in like manner as ye have seen Him Go into heaven.”* And He Will Come again. Even before the Great Flood, *“Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord Cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to Execute Judgment upon all, and to Convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”* John the Apostle also prophesied, *“Behold, He Cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him!”* We all get caught up in the excitement surrounding the Christmas season, because it's a time of gift exchange and excessive commercial enterprise. The real reason for celebration is the memorial of the birth of the spotless *“Lamb of God which Taketh away the sin of the world!”* The exact birthdate of Christ, while many speculate its occurrence, is unknown. One day is as good as another if you must celebrate it, but the day Christ exhorted us to recall is the Day of His Death. As He Lifted The Cup He said, *“This do in remembrance of me!”* Sunday Assembly remembers the Day of Resurrection. The Lord's Table remembers Who secures our Hope. *“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death TILL HE COME.”* The Lord's Table anticipates Christ's return as it recalls His Words, *“And if I Go, I Will Come Again.”*

My Hope surpasses time and space;  
Forever It Will all Erase,  
The trials of my earthly race,  
When I see Jesus' Blessed Face! –CGP

The Hope of each true believer is the anticipation of that final Day when Hope and Faith forever fade into the Glory of our Lord's Blessed Face! *“Looking for that Blessed Hope, and the Glorious Appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, Shall Give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His Appearing!”* Believer's hearts should be caught up with breathless anticipation of the Day of their Catching Away! Perhaps today!

*“For the Lord Himself Shall Descend from Heaven with a Shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain SHALL BE CAUGHT UP together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 KJV*