

Hope That Purifies

Christ-likeness for the Believer

David boldly proclaims his sure hope in the Lord. David is confident that he will be with God in glory. This sweet psalmist contrasts men of the world with his own hope in the Lord. Worldly people place all of their desire in things of this life. Worldly things are temporary and do not last. These are men of the world. They love this present world.

David says: “From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from **men of the world, which have their portion in this life**, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.” (Psalms 17:14) God may give them riches in this life. Yet, they are poor for eternity. They have not received God’s righteousness. **“Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe:”** (Romans 3:22)

In contrast, David is confident that he will see God in glory (“behold thy face”). **“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”** (Psalms 17:15) David will possess the Lord’s likeness. He will be fully conformed to righteousness because he has trusted the Lord. In that day he will sin no more.

Christians today have a similar hope. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: **but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**” (1 John 3:2)

Those saved are being conformed to be like Christ as they behold their Saviour. Looking to Christ brings about purity.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 1 John 3:3

James Utter

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