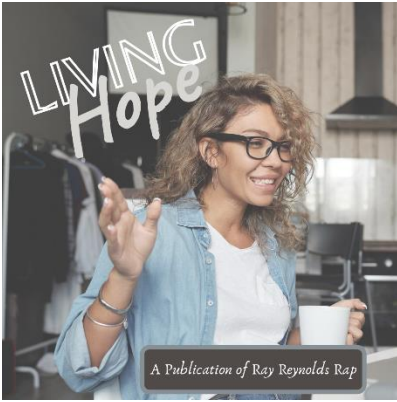


BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Workbook by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.



Bible Class Study Guide

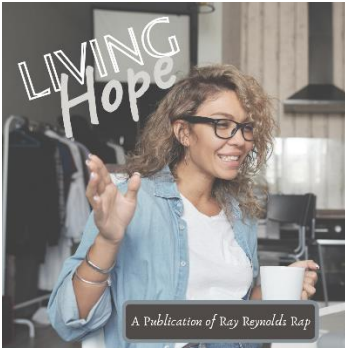
A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

TABLE OF CONTENTS

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a
LIVING HOPE through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
I Peter 1:3*

<i>BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
<i>What Is Our Hope?</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Why Do We Need Hope?</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Hope in the Old Testament</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Hope in the New Testament</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Words of Hope from Peter</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Words of Hope from Paul</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Words of Hope from John</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Christ’s Living Hope</i>	<i>10</i>

This study guide was created in 2017 by Ray Reynolds and copyrighted by Reynolds Rap Publications. The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Edgar Elliot, Dr. Ray Hendrix, Gleason L. Archer, Irving L. Jenson, Bruce Feiler, H. I. Hester, J. Vernon McGee, Billy Lambert, James Burton Coffman, Jurgen Moltmann and various other sources.



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #1 = What Is Our Hope?

Introduction: In this lesson I want to explore the subject of hope. Hope is an earnest expectation, or something for which we are longing and waiting. What does the Bible say about hope? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF HOPE?

- A. We can have hope of a heavenly reward (**Matthew 6:19-20, Colossians 1:5**).
- B. We can have hope of resurrection (**Acts 23:6, I Corinthians 15**).
- C. We can have hope in the gospel (**Acts 28:20, Colossians 1:5, 23**).
- D. We can have hope of eternal life (**Titus 1:2, 3:7**).
- E. We can have hope of salvation (**Romans 8:24-25, I Thessalonians 5:8**).
- F. We can have hope in our calling (**Ephesians 1:18, 4:4**).

II. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THIS HOPE?

- A. Our hope is glorious (**Colossians 1:27**).
- B. Our hope is good (**II Thessalonians 2:16**).
- C. Our hope is blessed (**Titus 2:13**).
- D. Our hope is steadfast and sure (**Hebrews 6:19**).
- E. Our hope is joyful (**Hebrews 3:6**).
- F. Our hope is living (**I Peter 1:3**).

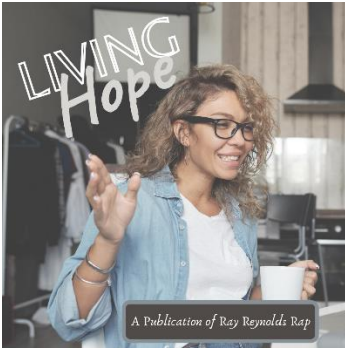
III. WHY DO PEOPLE REJECT THIS HOPE?

- A. Sinful living starts with a desire to sin (**James 1:15**).
- B. Sinful living continues to allow us to drift (**Isaiah 53:6**).
- C. Sinful living offers a very deceptive outcome (**I Corinthians 6:9**).
- D. Sinful living promises more than it can deliver (**Romans 6:6**).
- E. Sinful living is always destructive (**Romans 5:12**).
- F. Sinful living leads to eternal death (**Romans 3:23, 6:23**).

IV. HOW CAN THIS HOPE TRANSFORM OUR LIVES?

- A. Hope will challenge you to pursue the fruit of the spirit (**Galatians 5:19-23**).
- B. Hope will remove your condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).
- C. Hope will cleanse you from your sins (**I John 1:9-10**).
- D. Hope will cover a multitude of sins (**Hebrews 10:14**).
- E. Hope will reverse your condition (**Romans 5:9**).
- F. Hope will compel you to tell others (**I Peter 3:15**).

Conclusion: What was Paul's prayer in **Romans 15:13**? I need that hope. You need that hope. The world needs that hope!!! Does hope fill your soul? Are you full of hope? Let's share this hope with others!



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #2 = Why Do We Need Hope?

Introduction: Throughout the Bible we can clearly see that there are two distinct lifestyles of people on the earth (righteous and wicked). There are those who have received Jesus Christ and those who have chosen a life of sin and rebellion. This determines the difference between those who have hope and those who are hopeless. Why does the Bible encourage us to live a hope-filled life? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE A HOPELESS LIFE?

- A. Sin starts with desire (**James 1:15**).
- B. Sin causes us to drift (**Isaiah 53:6**).
- C. Sin is very deceptive (**I Corinthians 6:9**).
- D. Sin promises more than it can deliver (**Romans 6:6**).
- E. Sin is always destructive (**Romans 5:12**).

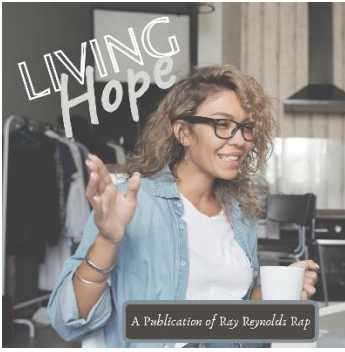
II. HOW CAN A HOPELESS LIFE BE DANGEROUS?

- A. A hopeless life is the anti-thesis of God's plan (**John 3:16-17**).
- B. A hopeless life follows the broad road (**Matthew 7:13-14**).
- C. A hopeless life is guided by rebellion (**I Corinthians 6:10**).
- D. A hopeless life is evidence of our refusal to accept Jesus (**Romans 1:28-32**).
- E. A hopeless life reveals the works of the flesh (**Galatians 5:19-21**).

III. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I RECEIVE THIS HOPE?

- A. When we have hope we are justified (**Romans 5:9**).
- B. When we have hope there is no condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).
- C. When we have hope there is cleansing from sin (**I John 1:9**).
- D. When we have hope we are covered by the blood of Jesus (**Hebrews 10:14**).
- E. When we have hope we are sealed by the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 1:13**).

Conclusion: You need hope today. Will you come to Jesus, surrender your sins at his feet, confess your desire to make Him your Savior, change your life so that you can trust Him, and be immersed into His precious blood through baptism? And if you have fallen, or strayed from the path, experience a renewed hope by rededicating your life. Are you ready to receive this hope?



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #3 = Hope in the Old Testament

Introduction: If there is one thing we need today in our world it is something to hope for (or to hope in). We need hope! There is no doubt in my mind that this topic is one of the most neglected in our teaching and preaching today. In this lesson I want us to take a close look at just a handful of Old Testament passages that deal with the subject of hope. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. WE NEED A HEAVENWARD HOPE

Psalm 31:24 – *“Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”*

II. WE NEED A MERCIFUL HOPE

Psalm 33:18 – *“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy.”*

III. WE NEED A CONTINUOUS HOPE

Psalm 71:14 – *“But I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more.”*

IV. WE NEED A JOYFUL HOPE

Psalm 146:5 – *“Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.”*

V. WE NEED A RIGHTEOUS HOPE

Proverbs 10:28 – *“The hope of the righteous will be gladness, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.”*

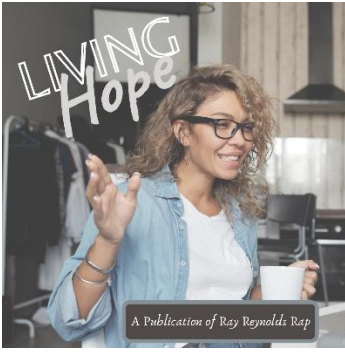
VI. WE NEED A STEADFAST HOPE

Isaiah 57:10 – *“You are wearied in the length of your way; Yet you did not say, ‘There is no hope.’ You have found the life of your hand; Therefore, you were not grieved.”*

VII. WE NEED A QUIET HOPE

Lamentations 3:26 – *“It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”*

Conclusion: Do you need some hope today? Come to Jesus! Does hope fill your soul? Are you full of hope? Let's share this hope with others!



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #4 = Hope in the New Testament

Introduction: We need hope today! There is no doubt in my mind that this topic is one of the most neglected one today. In this lesson I want us to take a close look at just a handful of New Testament passages that deal with the subject of hope. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. WE HAVE A GLORIOUS HOPE

Romans 5:1-5 - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

II. WE HAVE AN ABUNDING HOPE

Romans 15:13-14 - "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."

III. WE HAVE AN ABIDING HOPE

I Corinthians 13:13 - "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

IV. WE HAVE A BOLD HOPE

II Corinthians 3:12 - "Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech."

V. WE HAVE A CALLING HOPE

Ephesians 1:15-18 - "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

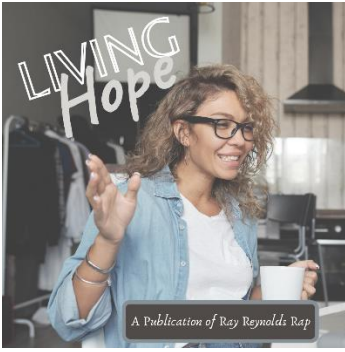
VI. WE HAVE A SAVING HOPE

I Thessalonians 5:8 - "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation."

VII. WE HAVE A BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:13 - "for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

Conclusion: Do you need some hope today? Come to Jesus! Does hope fill your soul? Are you full of hope? Let's share this hope with others!



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #5 = Words of Hope from Peter

Introduction: Christ came to this earth, not as a king or with great wealth, but as a humble child. He appears in the New Testament coming as the Son of young woman and a poor carpenter. He was born in a stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem. They wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. He was born under the most humble circumstances. However, He is greater than any earthly king! Even though He came into this world as a sign of triumph, He entered a world without hope. With His lowly birth He brought the greatest hope to a world of sinners. This is a hope that will never be surpassed. Peter experienced this hope first hand. I want to share with you the words of Peter about the hope of everlasting life. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. THE HOPE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A LIVING HOPE

I Peter 1:3 says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

II. THE HOPE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A FOCUSED HOPE

I Peter 1:13 says, *"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

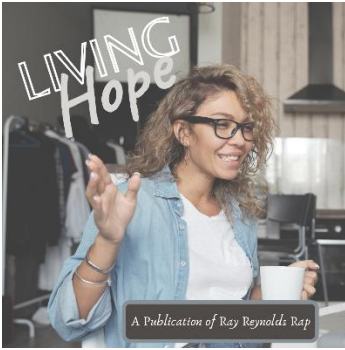
III. THE HOPE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A SECURED HOPE

I Peter 1:20-21 says, *"He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."*

IV. THE HOPE OF A CHRISTIAN IS A CHALLENGING HOPE

I Peter 3:15-16 says, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."*

Conclusion: There is a great difference between being hopeful and hopeless. This great gap between being hopeful and hopeless has been bridged! Jesus died so that you might be able to be full of hope. He paid a huge price for you to have this hope. Accept His loving sacrifice. Rejoice in the hope of salvation. Peter found this hope and he challenges you to find it as well. And if you have lost sight of this hope in your walk here on earth, do what Peter did. Reach out and take Jesus' hand before it's too late. Don't sink! Come to accept this hope now! Let's share this hope with the world!



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #6 = Words of Hope from Paul

Introduction: Christianity is said to have been the fastest growing movement of any kind ever in the history of the world. Jesus introduced the basic principles of His way during His ministry, but He kept telling His disciples not to tell anyone about it until He was risen from the dead (**Matthew 16:20; 17:9**). When the Holy Spirit came on the first Jewish Pentecost day after the resurrection, they began teaching it everywhere they went. Paul adds to that great hope in I Thessalonians by telling us that Jesus may have ascended into Heaven, but He will return. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. THERE IS HOPE BECAUSE JESUS IS COMING

I Thessalonians 4:15 says, *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep."*

II. THERE IS HOPE BECAUSE THE RESURRECTION IS COMING

I Thessalonians 4:16 says, *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."*

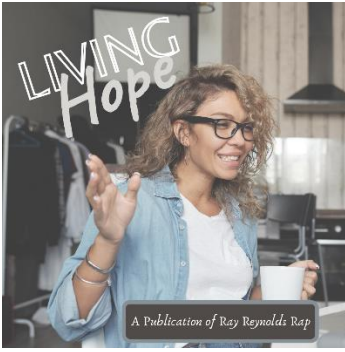
III. THERE IS HOPE BECAUSE HEAVEN IS COMING

I Thessalonians 4:17 says, *"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*

IV. THERE IS HOPE BECAUSE COMFORT IS COMING

I Thessalonians 4:17 says, *"Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

Conclusion: There is a great difference between being hopeful and hopeless. This great gap between being hopeful and hopeless has been bridged! Jesus died so that you might be able to be full of hope. He paid a huge price for you to have this hope. He loves you. Don't let Him die in vain for you. Accept His loving sacrifice. Rejoice in the hope of salvation. Paul found this hope and he challenges you to find it as well. He wanted the brethren to comfort one another with this wonderful hope. Listen to the words of Jesus and fill your heart with a passion for the message of the cross. Be like Paul and teach others about the blessed hope of Jesus' coming, the resurrection, Heaven, and great comfort in salvation! Let's share hope with the world!



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #7 = Words of Hope from John

Introduction: There should be no doubt that we live in a world of uncertainties. We are uncertain of the timing of trials on the horizon. We cannot predict situations and problems. And we certainly have no hope of tomorrow. Early on in John's epistle he gives a glimpse into the purpose of his writing. In **I John 3:1-3** he says, "*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*" But before he closes his epistle he hooks us with a message of hope and assurance that leaves us nearly breathless. Listen to his boldness and wisdom. He has no doubt that he is speaking the truth. Let's take a closer look. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. THERE IS HOPE FOR ANYONE BORN OF GOD

I John 5:18 says, "*We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.*"

II. THERE IS HOPE FOR ANYONE BELONGING TO GOD

I John 5:19 says, "*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*"

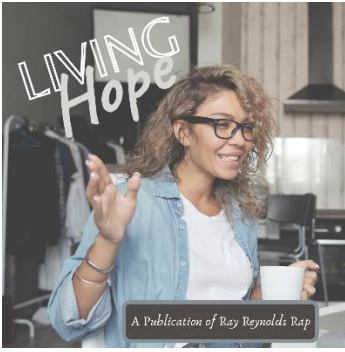
III. THERE IS HOPE FOR ANYONE BELIEVING IN GOD

I John 5:20 says, "*And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*"

IV. THERE IS HOPE FOR ANYONE BEHAVING IN GODLY WAYS

I John 1:8-10, Revelation 2-3

Conclusion: We need to keep in mind that these great assurances are available to every faithful Christian. The only thing required for these assurances is being a Christian. If you are not a Christian then you have no assurance. Why not accept Jesus today and repent of the sin in your life? You can be forgiven of all your trespasses and you can have an everlasting hope! Let's share the hope of Jesus Christ with the world! The whole earth needs the message of the gospel!



Bible Class Study Guide

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

LESSON #8 = Christ's Living Hope

Introduction: Throughout this series we have been talking about the hope offered to those who are walking with God. If we are in Christ, and obedient to the will of God, we have a great hope! In this lesson we will look into **I John 3** to see what it means to accept (and live in) Christ's living hope. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. RECOGNITION = God Wants Us To Recognize Him

I John 3:1 says, *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."*

II. TRANSFORMATION = God Wants To Transform Us

I John 3:2 says, *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."*

III. PURIFICATION = God Wants To Purify Us

I John 3:3 says, *"And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

IV. RESTORATION = God Wants To Restore Us

I John 3:4 says, *"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."*

V. RECONCILIATION = God Wants To Reconcile Us

I John 3:5 says, *"And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin."*

Conclusion: The Hebrew writer said, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."* (**Hebrews 11:1-3**) After concluding these words the author goes into great detail to illustrate such a faith in God. There are several Bible characters listed in that chapter that have already obtained a great reward. Why? They had faith in something they hoped for without any visual evidence. We need that kind of faith and hope! Do you have that hope? Are you sharing that hope? May God bless us with this great hope!