



Q. What hope does Christianity offer the world?

Josh McDowell Ministry

A. We are living in a day in which people are pessimistic about the future. There have always been pessimists, but now there is a general feeling of hopelessness regarding the future. Many people even look forward with a sense of dread. Under the pall of terrorism and talk of biological, chemical, and nuclear warfare, fear has engulfed our planet.

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Against this pessimistic and fearful backdrop, Jesus Christ offers real hope. He gives mankind the opportunity to become right with God and his fellowman. Thus Christianity offers a full life to those who will accept Jesus: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly" (John 10:10, KJV).

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However, abundant life never ends. There is a hope of life everlasting based upon the promises of God in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26, KJV).

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In a changing world, there exists an unchanging God whose world lasts forever. "The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8, MLB), and He Himself never changes, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, KJV).

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Ralph Baron, one of the top cartoonists of the nation, left this note pinned to his pillow before taking his own life: "I have had few difficulties, many friends, great successes; I have gone from wife to wife, and from house to house, visited great countries of the world, but I am fed up with inventing devices to fill up twenty-four hours of the day" (Bill Bright, *Jesus and the Intellectual*, p. 14).

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Shakespeare commented on life, "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing" (*Macbeth*).

<p>What a contrast to the words of the Apostle Paul written just before his impending death: "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4: 6-8, NASB). Christianity offers the world a genuine hope.</p>

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