

JESUS HOPE FOR TOMORROW



'Hope' is a resonant word. I wonder what it means to you? I wonder if you hope, and if you do, why you have reason to 'expect with confidence,' as one definition puts it. Maybe you are hopeful about your chances of beating cancer because the latest scan showed the tumour shrinking. Maybe you are hopeful of a promotion because your last review was glowing. Maybe the last quarter's financials have given you reason to hope your business may survive.

There are plenty of reasons to despair and sometimes hoping for a good outcome is simply a refusal to face facts. For Christians, Jesus' death and resurrection gives us the unshakable hope

of eternal life with God, of the ultimate end of suffering. This hope is a strong bridge over the deep ravine of life. One day at a time we can walk forward with confidence that the way ahead is safe and clear.

The apostle Paul wrote this to the early church in Rome:

suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

If we put our hope in Jesus, we will not be disappointed.

