

Our Present Hope (vv. 23-25)

VERSE 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the

Spirit (οὐ μόνον δέ, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτοὶ τὴν ἀπαρχὴν τοῦ πνεύματος ἔχοντες [*neg. ou + adv. monon only + conj. de + conj. alla but + conj. kai also + pro.nom.m.p. autos + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. apachre first-portion + d.a.w/noun gen.nt.s. pneuma + pres.act.part.nom.m.s. echo have*], **even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body** [ἡμεῖς καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐν ἑαυτοῖς στενάζομεν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπεκδεχόμενοι, τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν τοῦ σώματος ἡμῶν [*pro.nom.m.p. ego “we” + conj. kai even + pro.nom.m.p. autos “ourselves” + prep. en + pro.loc.m.p. heautou “ourselves” + pres.act.ind.1p. stenazo sigh, groan; complain + noun acc.f.s. huiiothesia adoption + pres.dep.part.nom.m.p. apekdechomai wait expectantly + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. apolutrosis redemption + d.a.w.noun gen.nt.s. soma body + pro.gen.m.p. ego “our”*]) .

VERSE 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for

who hopes for what he already sees (τῇ γὰρ ἐλπίδι ἐσώθημεν· ἐλπίς δὲ βλεπομένη οὐκ ἔστιν ἐλπίς· ὃ γὰρ βλέπει τίς ἐλπίζει [*conj. gar for + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. elpis hope + aor.pass.ind.1p. sozo save + noun nom.f.s. elpis + conj. de but + pres.pass.part.nom.f.s. blepo see + neg. ouk + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + noun nom.f.s. elpis + rel.pro.acc.nt.s. hos + conj. gar for + pres.act.ind.3s. blepo see + indef.pro.nom.m.s. tis what + pres.act.ind.3s. elpizo hope for*])?

VERSE 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait

eagerly for it (εἰ δὲ ὃ οὐ βλέπομεν ἐλπίζομεν, δι’ ὑπομονῆς ἀπεκδεχόμεθα [*part. ei if + conj. de but + neg. ou + pres.act.ind.1p. blepo see + pres.act.ind.1p. elpizo hope for + prep dia + noun gen.f.s. hupomone patience + pres.dep.ind.1p. apekdechomai wait eagerly*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 23-25

1. The “groaning” of lower creation (liberation from the curse) is also a fact of life for informed and positive believers.
2. “And not only this” refers back to the information found in verses 20-22.
3. “But we ourselves” refers to believers like Paul and the Romans who “groan within ourselves.”
4. “We ourselves” long for ultimate sanctification which includes both the soul and the body of corruption.
5. Under the right kind of teaching there results an eager expectation with respect to the Rapture.
6. “The first fruits of the Spirit” refers to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all who are believers in Christ in this dispensation.
7. The Holy Spirit creates within the human spirit of those who are adjusted believers an intense desire to be with, and like Jesus Christ, in resurrection glory.
8. Negative believers do not have this longing as they focus on the things of the cosmos, that is, the things that are seen, versus the things that are not seen.
9. The expression “firstfruits of the Spirit explained: (a) firstfruits are the portion of a wheat harvest that reaches maturity first. (b) the term is used in connection with Christ as the first resurrected person [1 Cor. 15:23]; (c) it is used of His body the Church which follows Him in the orders of resurrection [1 Cor. 15:23; Jam. 1:18]; (d) the IHS is the pledge or down payment of our Ph 3 sanctification [2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:14; 1 Thess. 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”].
10. A distinction should be made between Ph 1 adoption and Ph 3 adoption; the former is the guarantee of the latter.
11. “Waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons” is explained as “the redemption of the body.”
12. The completed process of adoption awaits the resurrection of the body.
13. “Redemption” is used as a salvation term and in reference to the resurrection of the body.
14. The believer’s body will be redeemed from the curse of death and sin.
15. It will be exactly like the body Jesus came up from the grave in (1 Jn. 3:2 “Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”).
16. Some verses that use Ph1 salvation terminology in reference to Ph 3 sanctification: Rom. 13:11; Phil. 2:12; Eph. 1:14; 4:30; Lk. 21:28.
17. Our salvation which we are already in possession of carries with it a hope with respect to the afterlife.
18. “In (the sphere of) hope we have been saved (fiat accompli).”; v. 24a
19. While our salvation is complete and irrevocable the hope for full sanctification is not as yet realized.
20. As we learn about our eternal destiny the greater is our eagerness to see it brought to pass.
21. The obvious truth is that hope that is seen (i.e., realized) is no longer in the category of that which is hoped for (v. 24b).
22. Paul states what is universally known about hope in v. 24c.
23. No one “hope for what he *already* sees?
24. “Hope” is used in verse 24 for the object of hope related to our full sanctification.
25. Ph 1 salvation fully qualifies believers for Ph 3 hope.

26. Verse 25 opens with a 1st class condition.
27. “If we hope for what we do not see” (and we do), then we will “wait eagerly for it with perseverance.”
28. Those who experience this eager anticipation are those who are not only aware of the redemption of the body, but the SG3 factor.
29. That is where “perseverance” comes into play.
30. For some verses on perseverance see: Lk. 8:15; Rom. 2:7; 5:3-4; 15:4-5; Heb. 10:36; 12:1; Jam. 1:3-4; 5:11; Rev. 1:9; 2:3, 19; 3:10.