

## Soli Deo Gloria!

We live in difficult and threatening times. We are seeing a collapse of our lifestyle due to a major money change. What we had does not exist anymore; the future seems very bleak and so uncertain. Our comfort, dependency and hope have been a delusion—money and things that money can buy. The result has been a life of comfort and pleasure. All comfort and pleasure is now threatened. To say the least, we are just downright frightened because what we have is fading into darkness and we have no control over it. Fear is beginning to control our lives. Fear will take us into a deep darkness that we have no control over. Our hope is fading.

BUT there is hope; there has always been hope. The key is that it is not in others, in us, or in things we possess. The Great Almighty God of the Universe promises us HOPE if we put our treasure in Him. In Luke 12, Jesus tells His disciples of a rich man who said to himself that he was rich in goods and could now have much pleasure. But there was a condition that the man had never examined—that he was not rich in God. God was far removed from the man's thought processes because his goods and pleasure dominated his mind. The man's treasure was in himself and his great accumulation of material wealth. How sad. Now here is the HOPE. Jesus spoke to His disciples about those who follow Him, in Luke 12: 22-23: "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing." 12:25 "And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span." 12:28-29 "But if God so arrays the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O men of little faith! And do not seek what you shall eat, and what you shall drink, and do not keep worrying." (ESV)

Wow! The perfect HOPE. The HOPE that will not go away. The HOPE that will not change. The HOPE that reaches out to us. The HOPE that gives. We don't have to depend on who we are or what we do or what others think. Our ONLY HOPE is in Him who died that we might live. How wonderful that we don't have to be fearful of our future. How marvelous to know that we don't have to look to others or ourselves for HOPE. Where is your HOPE?

Dewey Wise  
Hope Fruit and Berry Farm  
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