

## Lost Hope?

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by Wayne Goff

### Can you guess the value of a Palm Springs estate with 23,366-square-feet, 6 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 3 half-baths, an indoor and outdoor pool, a pond, putting greens and a tennis court?

Well it can be yours for a mere \$50 million! It is the estate of Bob and Dolores Hope. Bob died in 2003 at the age of 100; his wife died in 2011 at the age of 102. What a wonderful life these two lived under the sun! Fame, riches, luxury, and every door opened at your beck and call. You couldn't have asked for a more idyllic lifestyle!

But the Hopes are gone, and they have left behind every luxurious amenity they ever owned! The same is true for every human being who ever lived upon the face of this earth. You can't take it with you.

Righteous Job said it well: *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:21). The real question now is what kind of an estate do the Hopes have in eternity? Were they deemed righteous by God at the time of their deaths? God will be the righteous, perfect Judge. We will leave the question in His hands. After all, one **can** be wealthy and righteous -- just like Job, Abraham, and many others.

However, I find it sad that a beautiful, luxurious estate that once housed a wonderful, famous couple is now empty. All the celebrities are gone. The parties, the golf tournaments, the plans and the preparations are all gone. No matter who buys the estate, it will never be the same. And the Hopes enjoyed it for about as long as any human beings could -- **a hundred years!** But when it is all said and done, it's all gone. Lost hope.

The same is true for every family, every dynasty, and every person. Death is the great equalizer. It is not a respecter of persons. And whether your estate is large or small, one day it will belong to someone else. Every "estate sale" is a dispersment of someone's cherished property.

The only hope that you and I can have that will not one day become a "lost hope" is the hope of eternal life! Jesus promised us an eternal home if we will believe in Him and obey Him faithfully all of our lives (Rev. 2:10).

*"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"* (Jn. 14:2-3).

Yes, true believers can have a "mansion" in our Father's house! It will never be left behind. It will never go up for sale. It will never need repairs. In fact, the true meaning of the Greek word translated "mansions" is "an abiding place." The word appears only in John 14:2, 23.

"Christ's picture of heaven here is the most precious one that we possess. It is our heavenly home with the Father and with Jesus" [Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, "John," V:248].

Peter describes our eternal life with these everlasting words: *"an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"* (1 Pet. 1:4).

Still yet, the best part of that eternal home is the company. Jesus said, *"that where I am, there you may be also."* Such an existence is unfathomable to me. Man is so unworthy of such a life! But Jesus Christ has paid the inestimable price that you and I could never afford -- **His precious blood** (1 Pet. 1:19). All our sins have been washed away. We are made righteous before our loving heavenly Father. He waits to take us home to be with Him. The only thing remaining is for you to accept His gracious offer. What will you do, dear reader?

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