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## IN THE SUNSHINE

***“You were at that time separated from Christ....having no hope and without God in the world.” (Ephesians 2:12)***

**Hopelessness is hell-literally. As God made us to fulfill a function and attain an end (for “man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever”), so he made us creatures for whom hope is life, and whose lives become living deaths when we have nothing good to look forward to. As the deep hopelessness of post-Christian Western culture tightens its chilly grip on us, we are made to feel this increasingly, and so can better appreciate the infinite value for life today of that exuberant, unstoppable, intoxicating, energizing hope of joy with Jesus in the Father’s presence forever, which is so pervasive a mark of New Testament Christianity.**

**Whereas those without Christ are without God and without hope, living already in a dusk of the spirit that is destined to grow darker and colder, Christians are in the sunshine, endlessly rejoicing in “Christ Jesus our hope” (1 Timothy 1:1). The inescapable alternatives are false hope (Marxism? Spiritism? Happiness through having things? Endless good health? – false hopes, every one), or else no hope (total pessimism, inviting suicide), or else *Christian* hope, the electrifying knowledge of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). It is a pity that so little is heard these days about what has been called “the unknown world with its well-known inhabitant” to which the New Testament teaches Christians to look forward; for, as the hymn says: “The Lamb is all the glory of Emmanuel’s land,” and declaring that glory is part of what it means to relate the New Testament witness to the person and place of Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

**Dr. J.I. Packer~**

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20*

