

**When darkness veils His lovely face
(Song – My hope is built on nothing less)**

1 John 4:16

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to remind us where our hope and trust should reside.

- Intro: 1. It is a common fault, especially in difficult times.
2. Mankind sometimes fails to remember where their hope and trust should reside.

I. Leaning on the name of Christ

A. Hope in the blood of Christ (v.1a)

1. **1 John 1:7**

2. Because of Christ we have hope, without Him there is no hope.
a. Life because years of experiences and joys that are short lived.
b. Eternity is a long time, where do you want to spend it.

B. Don't trust in man or in things (v.1b)

1. **Psalm 146:1-10** (emp v.3-4,9)

- a. What does the Lord do? (v.6b-9a)
2. **Job 15:31** – don't trust in things

II. When darkness falls

A. When darkness veils the face of Christ (v.2a)

1. **Psalm 34:17-19**

2. **Luke 10:38-42**, the Lord knows our worries, labors and hardships. However, He reminds us where our focus needs to be.

a. What happened to Peter when he lost his focus in **Mt 14:29-31**

B. Our anchor holds beneath what is veiled[that is to say Christ] (v.2b)

1. Christ is our source of hope.
2. His sacrifice gives us the hope of heaven and is the anchor of the soul for the Christian.
a. God has promised heaven for the faithful and He cannot lie (**Heb 6:18b**)

III. Man's Faithfulness & God's Faithfulness

A. Supported by His word, commands & His blood (v.3a)

1. The faithful are obedient – **Deut 11:18**
2. We can rest in assurance of the love of God (**1 Jn 4:16a**)

B. When all around collapses (v.3b)

1. Christ is the friend who doesn't depart in hard times (**Pro 18:24**)
2. Former friends sought "revenge", God remained with him (**Jer 20:10-11a**)

C. Be found in Him at His return, faultless before Him (v.4)

1. Man needs to be found in Christ (**2 Pt 3:14**)
2. To be found in Him, man must be prepared (The Ten Virgins, **Mt 25:10-13**)

V. Lessons for Us Today

A. (Chorus) All other ground is sinking sand

1. **Mt 7:24-27**

2. The proper foundation is everything.

a. If you fail there, you will fail everywhere

B. Never a good time to disobey

1. Contentment is great gain, when that contentment is found in Christ (**1 Tim 6:6**)

2. Apathy – a lack of interest or concern; indifference

a. Apathy is what sits in the heart of those who become content and forget about God.

Application & Conclusion:

1. We must be those who keep their faith at all times.

a. Darkness will come but so will the sunshine. (slide change)

2. You will never see the light of Christ if you stop looking for it.

3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9