

**Introduction:**

1. General Douglas MacArthur promised, "I shall return."
2. The Lord Jesus Christ promised, "I'll come back" (John 14:1-3).
3. Apostle Paul referred to Christ's return to earth as "The Blessed Hope" (Titus 2:13).
- 4 The words **attitude** and **hope** defined:
  - a. Attitude means,
    - \* Way of thinking, acting, or feeling
    - \* Position of the body appropriate to an action, purpose, emotion
  - b. Hope means,
    - \* A feeling that one desires will happen
    - \* A person or thing that expectation centers in
    - \* Our hope is centered in Christ and His appearing, which is the Big Idea of our text for today.

**Text:** Titus 2:11-15**5. Textual Analysis**

6. **Incentives** for Christian living from "The Blessed Hope"
  - a. Incentive to purify ourselves and to be holy (1 John 3:2-3; Heb. 12:14)
  - b. Incentive to stand firm in our love for Christ to the end (Matt. 24:3, 7, 9-14).
  - c. Incentive for world mission (Matt. 24:14).
  - d. Incentive to be ever ready for Christ's return (Matt. 24:36-42).
  - e. Incentive to encourage one another in the Lord (1 Thess. 4:13, 16-18).

**Conclusion:****Read:** Titus 2:11-15

1. **Respond to this statement:** Our attitude toward Christ's return will affect our hopes and dreams, and the way we use our physical energy, or time, our material resources, and the way we plan and pursue our total life on earth.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:19

2. **Respond to this statement:** Christians are most pitiful people, if their hope in Christ is only for the benefit of their earthly life.
3. **Review and respond** to the five incentives in the sermon outline to see which of these are now working in your life.
4. **For further study** (now or later), refer to the Pastor's Corner article, entitled "The Mother of All Hopes."

PRAY!