

Introduction: *The opra' ain't over till...*

I. IT'S EASY TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS AND LOSE HOPE

- A. Some people live their lives “conclusion jumping”
- B. There are numerous biblical examples
- C. The devil loves conclusion jumping, but God has a better idea (Matt. 19:26; Rom.8:28)

II. LET'S LOOK AT THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF HOPE

- A. God the Father is the **foundation** of hope
Jer.14:8; Psalm 65:5; Psalm 18:2)

+ *Geo. W. Boschke & the Galveston Seawall*

- B. The risen Christ provides the **inner structure** of our hope (I Cor. 15:54-58; Rom. 8:38-39)

+ *'Hit me with your best shot'*

- C. The indwelling Holy Spirit supplies the **power** to hope (Rom. 15:13)

+ *The supply officer on the battlefield*

III. OUR RESPONSE TO GOD, OUR HOPE?

- A. Trust: “*Assured reliance on another's integrity*”
(Rom. 8:31-32)

- B. Confidence: “*The state of feeling secure, sure, certain*” (Jer. 17:7-8)

Conclusion: *The chess game with the devil: 'you still have a move!'*