

Prelude*

PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST

Adapted from a poem-sermon delivered by the distinguished
20th century African-American pastor

Bishop S.M. Lockridge

Christ is enduringly strong, He is entirely sincere.

He's eternally steadfast, He's immortally graceful.

He's imperially powerful, He's impartially merciful.

No barrier can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing.

He's God's Son. He's a sinner's Savior. He's the centerpiece of civilization.

He's the greatest phenomenon ever to cross the horizon of this world.

I'm trying to tell you, Church - ***PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!***

He does not have to call for help, and you can't confuse Him.

He doesn't need you and he doesn't need me.

He stands alone in the solitude of Himself.

He's august and He's unique. He's unparalleled, and He's unprecedented.

He's supreme and He's pre-eminent.

He is the loftiest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy.

He's the supreme problem of higher criticism.

He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology.

He's the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion. He's the miracle of the ages.

He's the superlative of everything good you can call Him.

I'm trying to tell you, Church – ***PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!***

He can satisfy all of our needs, and He can do it simultaneously.

He supplies strength for the weak.

He's available for the tempted and tried, He sympathizes and He sees.

He guards and He guides. He heals the sick, He cleanses the lepers.

He forgives sinners, He discharges debtors.

He delivers the captives, He defends the feeble.

He blesses the young, He regards the aged.

He rewards the diligent, He beautifies the meek.

I'm trying to tell you, Church - ***PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!***

He's the key to knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom.
He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway to peace.
He's the roadway to righteousness. He's the highway to holiness.
He's the gateway to glory. ***PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!***

He's the Master of the mighty. He's the Captain of the conquerors.
He's the Head of the heroes. He's the Leader of the legislators.
He's the Overseer of the overcomers. He's the Governor of the governors.
He's the Prince of princes. He's the King of kings.
He's the Lord of lords. ***PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!***

His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His life is matchless.
His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes.
His Word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous.
His yoke is easy. His burden is light. ***PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!***

I wish I could describe Him to you!
He is indescribable, because He's incomprehensible.
He's irresistible, and He's invincible.
You can't get Him off your hands.
You can't get Him out of your mind.
You can't outlive Him, and you can't live without Him.
Herod couldn't kill Him, Death couldn't handle Him
and thank God the grave couldn't hold Him.

There was nobody before Him, there will be nobody after Him.
He had no predecessor, and He'll have no successor.
You can't impeach Him, and He's not going to resign. Listen to me, Church -
PUT YOUR HOPE IN CHRIST!