




A New Year



**“Finally, a new
year! I’ve really
needed this.”**



**“Surely 2014 will
be better than last
year.”**

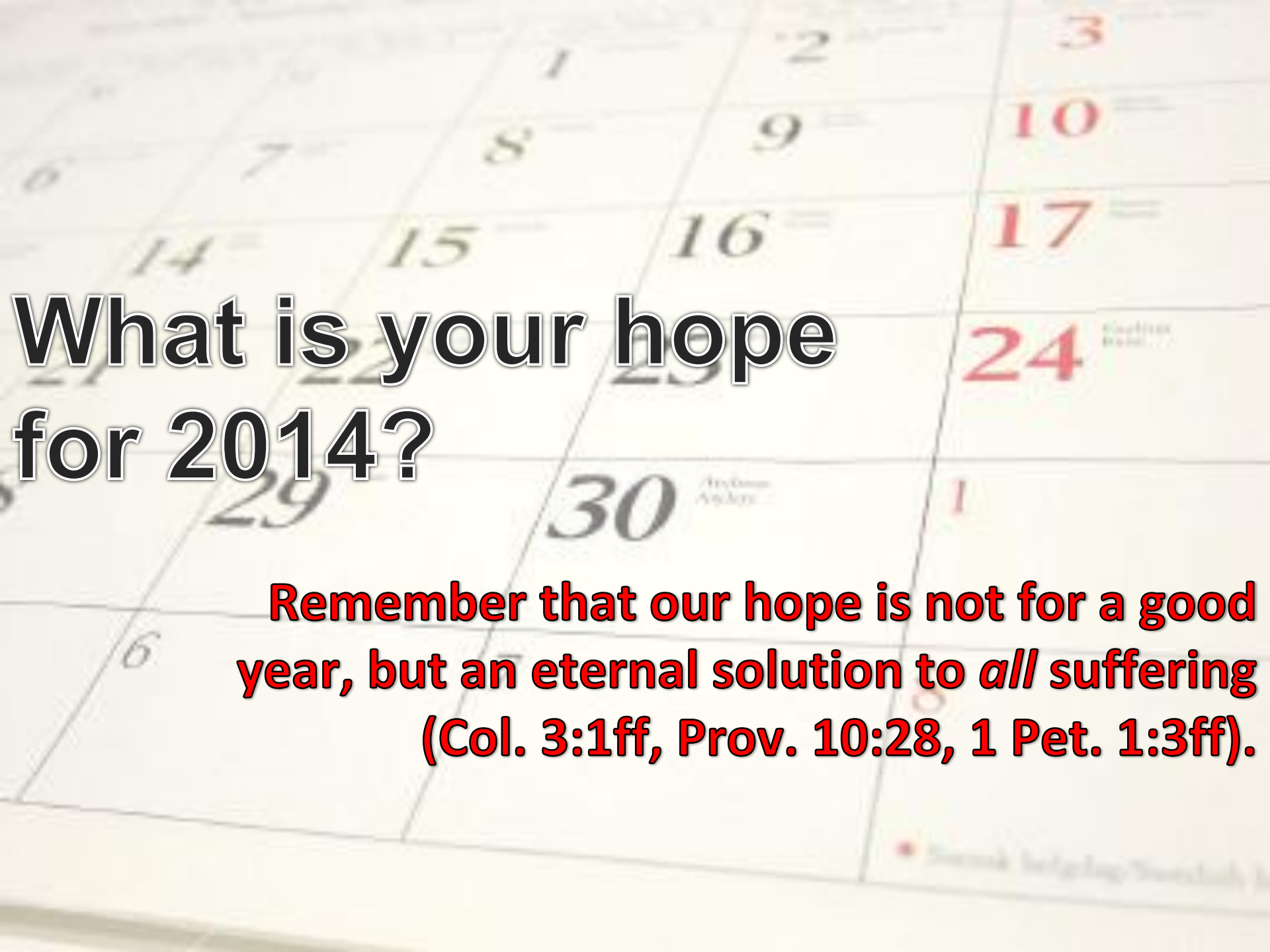
**“I love the fresh
start of a new
year.”**

Was Last Year So Bad?

- It is very easy to write-off last year if the bad experiences were memorable. Yet every one of them was an opportunity to learn something (2 Corinthians 4:16ff).
- Job also had a bad year, but he might never have grown into his thinking in Job 42:1-6.
- Was 2013 really so bad? We tend to remember what we choose, like Naomi in Ruth 1. She failed to count the blessings and concluded that God had abandoned her.

The Power of the Calendar!

- How does switching calendars change anything? A new year promises absolutely nothing! It could be as bad or worse (Ecc. 9:1, Prov. 16:9). You do not know what tomorrow may bring (Prov. 27:1).
- Did you *plan* on 2013 being so bad? Our contentment must not be wrapped up in earthly conditions (Phil. 4:11-13).
- Planning or assuming anything about the future is a dangerous game (James 4:13ff, Ecclesiastes 9:11-12).

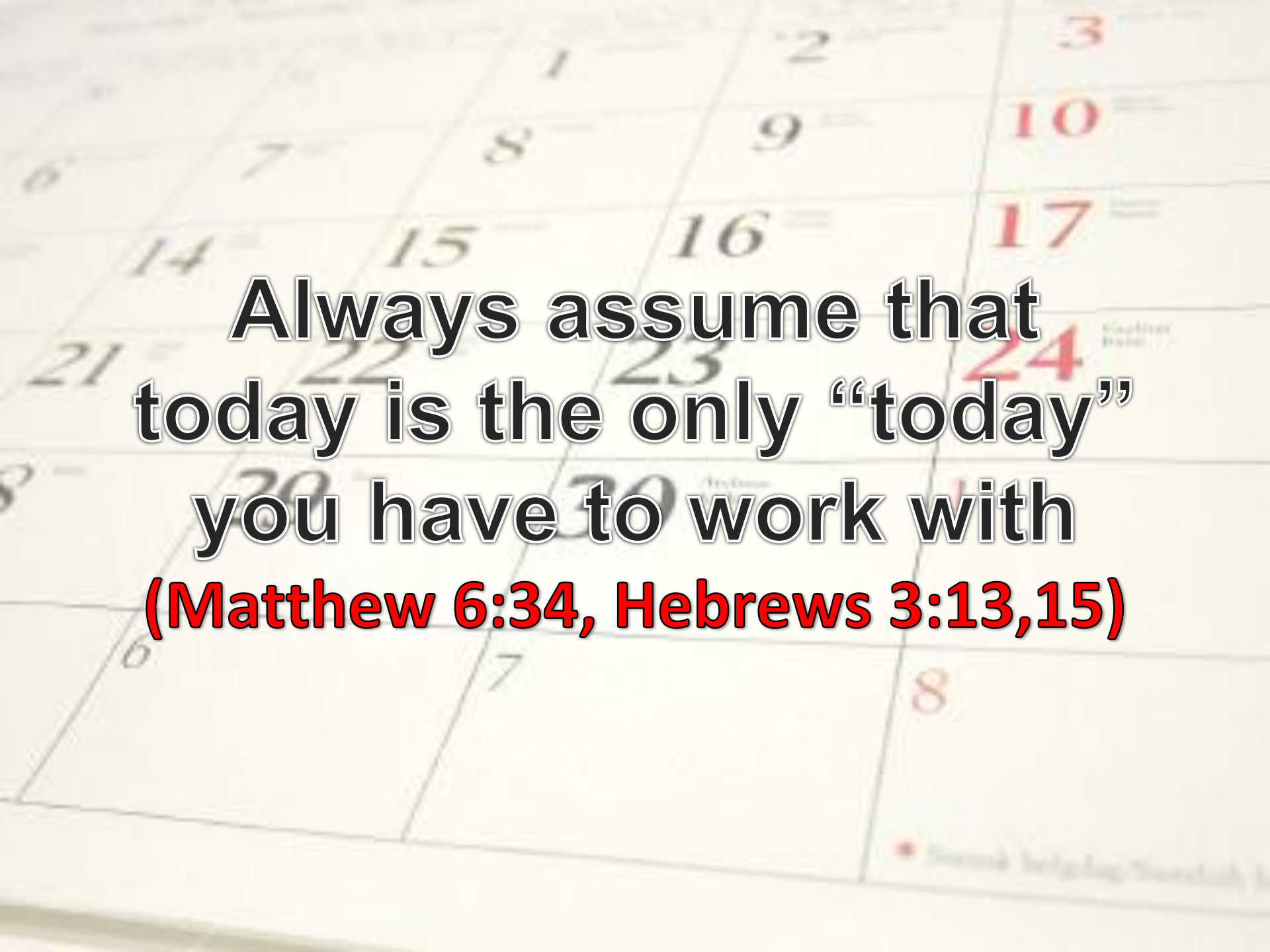


**What is your hope
for 2014?**

Remember that our hope is not for a good year, but an eternal solution to *all* suffering (Col. 3:1ff, Prov. 10:28, 1 Pet. 1:3ff).

What Kind Of Year Should I Want?

- *One that challenges me* – Without our trials, we would never grow (Psalm 51, Joshua 24:14-15, 2 Timothy 4:7).
- *One that surprises me* – God provides the opportunities, we provide the response. I don't want to know the future (Prov. 16:9, Jer. 10:23).
- *One that reminds me that Judgment is coming* – Every year brings me one step closer to when I must give an account of my life. What will I have to say about 2014? Remember 2 Peter 3:8-13.



**Always assume that
today is the only “today”
you have to work with
(Matthew 6:34, Hebrews 3:13,15)**