

before us who kept their faith and had the hope that someday they would be in Heaven with their Lord and Savior. You see, as Christians, we will face hardship and discouragement and it is easy to lose sight of going to Heaven and the over all big picture. However, we are not alone. There is help for us and Jesus is that help.

As seen in Hebrews chapter 11 many have already made it through this life enduring a whole lot more difficult circumstances than we have had to experience. You see, suffering is the training for a Christian's maturity. It helps to develop our patience and will make our final victory sweet before our Lord. ***"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."*** James 1:12. Our

hope as a Christian is through Jesus Christ the Son of God who died for ours sins. Jesus says He is the only way to God the Father. Some people may argue that this way is much too narrow. In reality it is wide enough for the whole world, that is if the world would choose to accept Jesus as THE way. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of each one of us and the gospel is for all. Instead of worrying about how limited it sounds to have only one way, we should be striving with the hope spoken to us in the Bible as the only sure way to get to heaven. The only way any of us can have eternal hope is that we have to be dead to sin and alive in Christ as seen in Romans 6:1-10. You can choose your destiny, it's your choice.

By Bill Davis

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Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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H "Our Hope"

Have you ever noticed that As Christians, our hope as we go through life we are should be centered around the all hoping for the best in life? very words that Jesus spoke in When we are young, we al- the New Testament. Our hope ways hope for more time to should be as those in the Old play and have fun. As we get Testament who hoped for a older, we hope for a better life better day when they would be and more time to enjoy life. As with God as they passed from Christians, we all should have this world. Today our hope a hope; that is a confident ex- should be steadfast when times pectation in things beyond this get too tough to bare. Times world. We have the hope that such as the loss of a loved one when we pass from this world or hard financial times. The we will be with God and His apostle Paul had much to say son Jesus in Heaven. Jesus about hope; that there will be a said in John 14:3: ***"I go to resurrection and those who are prepare a place for you."*** faithful to the end know ***"that Heaven is a prepared place for the sufferings of this present a prepared people. God time are not worthy to be through His word instructs us compared with the glory and gives us hope. Psalm which shall be revealed in 119:74 - "Those who fear You us."*** Rom. 8:18. In Colossians will be glad when they see me, 1:5, Paul reminds us that our because I have hoped in Your hope is stored up in Heaven. word." "because

of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel."

Here Paul is emphasizing the security of the believers, if they remain faithful.

As believers we know that our future destination and our salvation are sure to be with God in Heaven. We can have confidence that God keeps His promised and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6) A lot of times we find ourselves doubting or even wavering in our faith but we must always remember our true destination which is Heaven. As Christians, we should have a hope that will abide forever. In I Cor. 4:8, the apostle Paul reminds us that even though we may think that we are at the end of our rope, we will never be at the end or our hope. You see, our bodies are subject to suffering and will perish, but God will never abandon us or forsake us. I Cor 4:8-12: ***"We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.***

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you." As Christians,

we have this hope that if we continue in our faith and are established and firm being not moved from the hope held in the gospel, we will be with our Lord and Savior in Heaven as seen in these

s c r i p t u r e s :

Hope enabled Abraham to become the father of the faithful... Romans 4:18 ***"who contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."***

Romans 5:5: ***"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."***

Hope to us as Christians is the saving element of life. Romans 8:24-25: ***"For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."***

Our hope is strengthened by Scriptures.

Romans 15:4: ***"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."***

Hope to believers opens the door to teach others about Jesus. I Peter 3:15: ***"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"***

Hope assures our immortality with God. Acts 24:15: ***"I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust."***

Hope is our heavenly treasure. Col 1:5: ***"because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,"***

Hope anticipates Christ's return. Titus 2:13: ***"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."***

Hope is a Christian's sole anchor when times get tough. Hebrews 6:18: ***"that by***

two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us."

You see, as Christians, Christ is our only hope for salvation and to be with God and His son Jesus Christ in Heaven when we pass from this world to the spiritual world. Jesus explained, ***"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*** John 14:6. As Christians, we need to be strong to face the evils in this world. We have to be well grounded in the Word to keep our minds and our thoughts right with the Lord. Some of you reading this article may say, "you don't know what I have been through" but I will tell you that you are not alone in our struggles as a Christian. that is why Jesus came down from Heaven to die on that cruel cross for you, me and all of mankind. Without Jesus shedding His blood for you and me it would be impossible for us to be free from sin and be able to live in Heaven when we pass from this world.

You see, hope and faith have a lot in common. Hope is steadfast and confident. Where faith is sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11 is full of examples of those who went on