

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Hope

The Christian's Hope:

The American Heritage Dictionary defines hope as “a wish or desire accompanied by confident expectation of its fulfillment” (AHD 622). The Christian’s desire and expectation is to be at peace with the Heavenly Father throughout all eternity (Col. 1:5). There are; however, many obstacles that stand in our way of achieving this ultimate goal in life.

Obstacles

Events and circumstances of life often try the longevity of one’s faith. Sometimes the **unexpected events** in life draw our minds away from service unto the Lord. When facing disease, back troubles, or any other **chronic illness** people tend to get caught up in the healing and rehabilitation rather than continuing to serve the Lord in whatever capacity they can. When facing **mental duress** some have the tendency to leave their hope by the wayside while dealing with the mental strain. Over all **busyness** is also a factor in letting our most valued hope of heaven slip by the wayside. We put much time into raising our children which means feeding, clothing, educating, and extracurricular activities. We put much time into our **employment** too. **Temptation** to sin is another obstacle that has the ability to take hope from one’s life and place it in the deep corners of one’s mind. If the Christian is not careful these obstacles may bring our desire and expectation of God’s fulfilled promises on a detour of worldly concerns. Hope may be placed in a corner of our minds that is not very often visited.

There is generally no fault on our part when faced with a chronic illness or any other unexpected event of life. Sometimes mental duress and overall busyness can be helped with better planning. We ought to be strongly opposed to the tempting vices of Satan. The object of this article; however, is not reprioritizing of one’s life. The

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Nell Hulsey has not been feeling well as of late. She has experienced dizzy spells and overall weakness. She had an MRI last week.

Clint Chancellor received good news from his neurologist this past Wednesday. Clint's MRI showed scar tissue but no significant damage or anything that would indicate that he had experienced a stroke. The doctors told him he is experiencing migraine headaches and suggested that he get on a regular regiment of aspirin.

Our Annual Summer **Gospel Meeting** with Bob Dodson was a success. You can request CD copies of the sermons or listen to them online.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson

object is rather what one is doing with the hope that presently governs the life. Have we let our hope slip? Are we more concerned about this life than the life to come? Are we just as hopeful now for our heavenly home as we were a few years back?

Have you pushed your Hope somewhere out of Sight?

Honest people realize that there have been times in their lives when they left their hope in the lurch. There have been times in life when the hope of heaven is not something that is really thought of. We disappoint ourselves when we read of the Apostle Paul's hope and compare it with ours. Paul told the Philippians of his "*earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing shall I be put to shame*" in relation to his heavenly home (Phil. 1:20; 3:20-21). Paul told Timothy, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only but also to all them that have loved his appearing*" (II Tim. 4:7). Do you and I still have hope in God's promises?

What will keep my Hope Alive?

Let me suggest four things that may refocus our hope. **First**, be advised that hardships and disappointment comes to all people not just you (see Eccl. 2:14). **Secondly**, keep in mind that this life we live is very short (James 4:14). Most all of us can easily remember our high school days as though it were yesterday. Before we know it our time on earth will be finished. **Thirdly**, you and I can take absolutely nothing from this life with us when we die. My job, my toys, my hobbies, and physical health will be left behind when I die (I Tim. 6:7). **Fourthly**, we must regularly contemplate the reality of eternity, heaven, and hell. Solomon wrote, "*He hath made everything beautiful in its time: also he hath set eternity in their heart, yet so that man cannot find out the work that God hath done from the beginning even to the end*" (3:11). You and I have been created by God to know that eternity exist. Let us thereby live as though we believe this.

Has your burning desire to make it to heaven been dimmed by this world? Have your expectations of receiving God's promises of salvation changed? If so, please do consider these thoughts. Eternity is too long to quit on God now. God's promises are the only thing man can hold on to for all eternity. Put your hope in God and he will never disappoint you.

John C.
Robertson

Salvation through Christ Alone

A Study of Bible Authority
Acts 4:5-12

Introduction:

Religious confusion is founded in man seeking to serve God by his own means rather than by God's authoritative will (see Acts 15:10; 17:29; 26:9). People often are confused as to how Biblical authority works. The Lord delivered His divinely inspired will for man through the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5; Acts 22:10-15; Gal. 1:11-12). God's divine revelation has never been subject to change based on one's situation, environment, or personal beliefs. When people walk away from God's revelation they take themselves away from the only one that can save them.

I. Consider these Headlines:

- A. "Lutherans OK clergy changes: Sexually active gays can be members"
(Times Record News August 20, 2009).
- B. "There's a good side and a bad side of Tradition" (ibid.).
- C. Churches help needy, try to screen out Greedy"
(Christian Chronicle May 2009)

II. Consider the importance of doing religious things God's Way:

- A. Lot's Wife (Gen. 19:15-17, 23-26).
- B. Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1-3)
- C. Moses strikes rock (Numb. 20:7-12)
- D. 50,000 die because they looked into the Ark (Numb. 4:20; I Sam. 6:19)
- E. Uzzah dies for touching the Ark (II Sam. 6:1-7).
- F. The story of Namaan (II Kings 5:1ff).

III. There is salvation in no other way but God's Way

(see Jn. 6:66-68; Acts 4:12)

- A. There is great "POWER" in the name of Jesus Christ
- B. All mankind is to pattern their lives after Christ

Conclusion:

There are men in the Bible who took religion by force and tried to mold it after their own will yet God always had the last word (see Korah – Numb. 16:1ff). Likewise Jesus, in the NT, said that men would do the same with the kingdom of God (see Matt. 11:12). True hope; however, rest with those who would remain faithful to God's word throughout their lives (Rev. 2:10).