

From the Family Room

**Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL**

3 June, 2018

Hope!



God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:18-19

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead I Peter 1:3

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:1-5

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Romans 15:4

Life has been described as a journey - often as a voyage at sea. Many times the voyage is peaceful and beautiful. But sometimes it is filled with rough seas in the middle of a storm. It is true that each life will have its trying times of storms including doubt, sorrow, disaster, consequences of sin, and death. These storms affect all of us. Many people are helpless when life's storms rage. They have no security. They are tossed around in life by wild waves and strong winds. They have no control, no direction, and no hope. They have no anchor.

We as Christians have security that comes from our anchor – our hope in Jesus. We can trust our hope, our strong and confident expectation, because of God's love and guidance. The gospel is the message of hope.

Storms will be part of our lives as long as we live here on earth. Our anchor of hope does not always quiet the storm on the outside. It will quiet the storm inside us. The holding ground of our anchor is sure and steadfast making our hope absolute. Jesus is preparing a place for us so we can join Him in heaven one day.

All of us encounter storms in life. Several in our Creekwood family are in the middle of severe storms at this time. Let's never forget the living hope that calms us and securely anchors us as the storms of life rage.

"Hope as an anchor so steadfast, rends the dark veil for the soul, whither the Master has entered, robbing the grave of its goal. Come, then, o come glad fruition, come to my sad weary heart. Come o Thou blest hope of glory, never, o never depart.

("Whispering Hope" Howard Publishing Co. in "Songs of the Church", 1971)

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