

PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

June 25, 2017

Hope

by Frank Himmel

Hope is a comforting word. It speaks of optimism, of better things, better times. Hope looks forward. It is desire coupled with expectation. It is the ability to reach into the future with your mind and latch on to something in such a way as to affect the present.

There is one hope (Ephesians 4:4). Oh, there are a great many things we hope for in life, but one overshadows them all. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4).

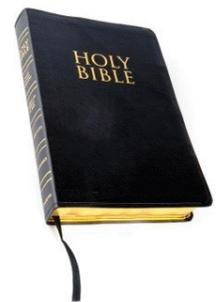
What is the basis of our hope of heaven? Is it merely wishful thinking? Hardly. We live "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ago" (Titus 1:2). Men sometimes make promises, then dash our hopes by not delivering. Not so with God. "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed" (Romans 10:11). Notice in the verse from 1 Peter 1 that our hope lives through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. That event verified two vital truths: Jesus was who He claimed to be, and God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews

10:23). We can rest assured God will do what He said. This verse admonishes us to do our part. Christ in us is our hope (Colossians 1:27). We take hold of hope when we become His disciples, when we "clothe ourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:27). The devil wants us to let go. We must maintain our grip. Think about God and heaven. Don't give the devil a place. Associate with others who share your hope. And when the going gets rough, remember who promised.

Interestingly, when we hold to hope, hope holds to us. "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast" (Hebrews 6:19). Hope gives us perspective. It gives us staying power. It strengthens in trials. It comforts in sorrow. Oh, blessed hope! ■

New Bible Classes



The new quarter is only a week away, and that brings new adult Bible classes.

On Sunday mornings, Frank Himmel will be teaching a class about characters in the book of Genesis. A workbook is available for that class. On Wednesday evenings, Greg Winget will be teaching a class on Bible Places and Events.

Make it a habit to attend Bible class regularly!

Staying in Style

by Frank Himmel

When I was little, houses tended to be pastel colors inside. Mint green was especially popular! Wood paneling was also in vogue.

White or antique white then took over; it was bright and clean, and you added color with your furnishings and decorations.

White then yielded to vivid dark colors: navy, hunter green, and burgundy were favorites. They made rooms “pop” (they also required multiple coats of paint!).

Beige came next. It was more “soothing” than those dark colors (which took two coats of primer to cover!).

Now gray reigns. Every spec home in the neighborhood is some shade of gray.

Wallpaper has come and gone through the years. It is currently so “out” that neither Lowe’s nor Home Depot stocks a single roll in our local stores.

What’s next? Who knows! But if you want to stay in style, you had better keep that brush and roller handy.

Unfortunately, society’s morals are also constantly evolving, right along with house colors; and far too many are staying “in style” on that front, too. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2). ■

A Servant

by Frank Himmel



“You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them” (John 13:13-17).

The setting was the last supper. Jesus was focused on His coming crucifixion. His disciples, however, had other concerns: they got into an argument about which of them was the greatest (Luke 22:24).

Jesus took a towel and a basin of water, and washed their feet, a proverbially humble task (cf. John 1:27). If the Lord could make Himself a servant, surely the disciples could, too.

Jesus’ crucifixion was the ultimate service. It resulted in blessings beyond measure for all. While no effort we render could approach that value, the Lord assures us that we, too, are blessed by serving. May we take that lesson to heart. ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Chris Brooks	Mark Clifton	Greg Winget
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Greg Winget	Albert Harrison Sr
OPENING PRAYER	Albert Lee Harrison	TBD	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Mike Zachry	Mike Zachry	
CUP	Carlos Garcia	Carlos Garcia	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Daven Daniel		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Singing	John Baucom
CLOSING PRAYER	Ray Moore	TBD	Josh Baucom