

July 23, 2023

In Christ Alone My Hope Is Found

by Ken Weliever

"The lives of a 6th grade class in East Harlem were forever changed on the day self-made millionaire Eugene Land challenged them with the promise, 'Stay in school, and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you.'"

"One student said, 'I had something to look forward to, something waiting for me. It was a golden feeling.' Nearly 90% of that class went on to graduate from high school."

Jon Mitchell, shared this story in his blog "Pre-Denominational Christianity," on a facebook, post. He then offered these insightful observations.

Why did their outlook change? They now had hope. Someone guaranteed something that they could never do for themselves. Someone paid the high price for them.

Jesus Christ is our hope. As the song says, "In Christ alone my hope is found..." Jesus has done for us something similar...and yet far, far greater...than what Mr. Land did for those kids.

He paid a debt He did not owe. I owed a debt I could not pay. I needed someone to wash my sins away. And now I sing a brand new song, "Amazing Grace," all day long. Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.

When you realize that you are no longer obligated to pay a huge, insurmountable

debt, you have overwhelming joy and hope for a brighter future.

Jesus paid the debt for our sins, and that means we have hope. Hope for a future that would not in any way be ours without His sacrifice.

And just to make sure that we're on the same page, let's define our terms. Specifically, let's define hope.

When I talk about hope in this context, I'm not saying that Jesus gave us a chance for eternal life as opposed to a guarantee. That's how we define hope. "I hope I get that raise." "I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow so we can go fishing."

That's not biblical hope.

The Hebrew noun in the Old Testament which is translated hope is *tiqvah*, and *tiqvah* carries with it the idea of expectation. The Greek noun in the New Testament translated as hope is *elpis*, which has to do with trust and confidence, the expectation of what is sure to come.

Having no hope — no expectation, no trust, no confidence — is a real problem. Paul spoke of those who had "no hope" because they were "separated from Christ" and "without God in the world" (Eph. 2:11-12). Yet all that changed once they became Christians (Eph. 2:13).

Christians have hope...and that hope must be steadfast (1 Thess. 1:2-3).

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series

- Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

Our meeting with Mark Roberts

is scheduled for August 13-16

Gospel Meeting- South Loop church of Christ in Taylor with Jason Garcia

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Patient, because heaven is worth the wait. We must think of eternal life in heaven the way Paul did, who called it “my eager expectation and hope” (Phil. 1:19-20). It might just be that the reason we get so upset and discouraged in this life is because we focus more on this life than on our hope in heaven.

I would add to Jon’s thoughts the power of hope is the foundation of our faith (Heb. 11:1). Hope sustains and preserves us. It encourages us to get started. It enables me to live with whatever challenge life throws my way. It empowers me to say “no” to Satan’s enticements. Hope sees the light in the darkest of nights. Hope enlightens me to see the future.

Along with Jon we ask this question: “Where does your hope lie?”

The answer? “In Christ alone”

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s lymphoma has returned and will be undergoing chemo starting next week,

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is home from rehab. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell’s sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Tony Mauck has cancer that has already spread.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Margaret Vanaman is home recovering.

Syble Hargrove is in Kingsland Hills Care Center.

Dorothy Steadman is recovering from her seizure and is staying with Hank.

Debbie McMurray had a biopsy at MD Anderson.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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