

MEDITATION

"Hope? Hope!"

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort (encouragement) of the Scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

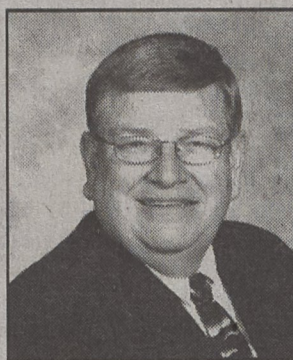
"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the LORD, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

In modern usage, the word "hope" usually expresses a measure of doubt and/or wishful thinking. We want something or look forward to some event, but there is a good possibility that we won't get what we want or the event won't happen. With that in mind, I am amazed at the people who answer my query as to whether or not they are saved with, "I

hope so." The Bible explicitly teaches that our salvation is all of God and not of ourselves. We didn't earn it, can't do enough good works to merit it, can't buy it - it is a free gift of the grace of God. (Romans 6:23) So does God lie? Is it possible for Him to fail to keep a promise? Some might say, "I hope not," but the Word assures us from cover to cover that such is not the case. Satan can lie, in fact, Jesus called him a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44) But God cannot lie. (Numbers 23:19).

So what's with this "I hope so" business? Back to the dictionary. As we continue with the definition, we find that the word "hope" used to mean trust and reliance upon something or someone. Indeed this is the way it is used in many Bible

verses. Our text verse assures us that the Scriptures were written and preserved that we might have "hope." We can trust the Bible to point us to Jesus and give us God's answers to the questions we face each day. We can rely on it without reservation because it is the Word of God. It will never err in its advice. It will never lead us astray. It is always relevant and timely. We can find "hope" in the Bible because it is authored by the eternal God who was and is and ever more shall be; who revealed Himself to us in the Person of His only Son, Jesus, who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." So



James Lochridge Jr.
Pastor
Second Baptist Church

when Paul told Titus that he was, "in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" (Titus 1:2), I think it is clear just how he was using the word. We are not to "hope" (wishful thinking) for our salvation. We are to "hope" in (trust in and rely upon) an unchanging, always truthful, never failing God who guarantees it. I "hope" you understand this.

BRIEFS

BYNUM CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH, Cansler St., will hold a gospel home mission program Saturday, June 2, at 3 p.m. Rev. Raymond Gardin, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, will be guest speaker. Members of his congregation and choir will join in the service. The public is invited.

WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH WMU will hold a yard sale Saturday, June 1, from 7 a.m.-12 noon at 1804 Shelby Road. Lots of items will be available. If it's raining, no yard sale. Proceeds benefit the Women's Missionary Union.

DOVER BAPTIST CHURCH, 1501 Polkville Rd., Shelby, will have Vacation Bible School on the theme, "Colossal Coaster Word" with the kickoff on June 9 from 4:30-6:30 p.m., supper June 10-13 from 5:15-6 p.m. followed by instruction from 6-8:30 p.m. and cookout on June 14 from 4-5 p.m. Students 3 to completion of 6th grade are invited. Nursery and adult classes are also available.

LIFE OF WORSHIP MINISTRIES, 405 Cherokee St., opens its food pantry and clothing closet free to the public every Wednesday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 405 Cherokee Street. Call 704-739-3177 for more information.

Email church items to lib.kmherald@gmail.com or call The Herald at 704-739-7496.

Fellowship & Faith

Church Service Directory

KINGS MOUNTAIN

Long Creek Presbyterian Church
701 Long Creek Road
704-629-4406

Love Valley Baptist Church
2032 Bethlehem Road
704-730-0075

Macedonia Baptist Church
1101 S. Battleground Avenue
704-739-6811

Midview Baptist Church
703 Margrace Road
704-739-6711

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

Mountain View Agape Church
506 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-0160

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Compact School Road
704-739-4516

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
220 N. Watterson Street
704-739-8354

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ
541 Crocker Road
704-730-9507

New Bynum Chapel Zion Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-2606

New Camp Creek Baptist Church
863 New Camp Creek Ch. Road
704-487-7128

New Life Family Worship Center
428 Oak Grove Road
704-739-9371

New Way Missionary Baptist Church
105 Waco Road
704-724-0414

Oak Grove Baptist Church
1022 Oak Grove Road
704-739-4833

Oak View Baptist Church
1517 York Road
704-739-7831

Pathway Baptist Church
3100 Parkdale Circle
704-734-0852

Patterson Grove Baptist Church
301 Oak Grove Road
704-739-5826

Peoples Baptist Church
1010 Groves Street
704-739-0398

Proclaiming the Word Ministries
7011 Cleveland Avenue

Progressive Church of Our Lord
1001 Cleveland Avenue
704-734-1070

Resurrection Lutheran Church
600 Crescent Circle
704-739-5580

Royal Praise Ministries
2055 Shelby Rd.



Featured Church of the Week:

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church
201 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-7466

Second Baptist Church
120 Linwood Road
704-739-4216

Shady Grove Baptist Church
339 Shady Grove Road
704-739-8920

St. Paul United Methodist Church
N. Cansler Street
704-739-1256

Sunrise Baptist Church
208 Mail Road
704-692-3007

Temple Baptist Church
612 N. Cansler Street
704-739-4716

The Favor Center Church
602 Slater Street

True Gospel Holiness Church
1608 Shelby Road
704-739-6764

Unity AME Zion Church
948 Unity Church Road
704-228-0328

Vestibule AME Zion Church
2175 Vestibule Church Road
704-739-7961

Westover Baptist Church
114 Westover Drive

GASTONIA
Bethesda United Methodist Church
3714 S. New Hope Rd

Grace Community Advent Christian Church
206 West 3rd Avenue
704-739-9230

GROVER

Bethany Baptist Church

423 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-3010

Carolina Praise and Worship Center
201 N. Main Street
704-937-7541

First Apostolic Church of Blacksburg
205 E. Cherokee St.
Blacksburg, SC 704-937-7390864-839-1873

WACO

New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

Notice: In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next week.

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