

Where is Your Hope?

By Bob Russell

Motivational speakers often remind us of the need for short-term and long-term goals. We all need something to look forward to doing each day and something to motivate us for eternity. When we put our hope in Jesus Christ, He meets our needs. **Our hope is an eternal hope.** Peter calls it, “a living hope.” If our hope is in possessions, people or ourselves, it’s a dead or dying hope because all those goals are temporal. But if it is in Jesus, it’s a living, eternal hope. It can never perish, spoil or fade because Jesus is forever.

Our hope is a realistic hope. Peter says, “Though now for a little while you may have had to suffer in grief in all kinds of trials.” Our faith in Christ does not exempt us from hurting experiences but it gives purpose to daily disappointments and pain. We understand that our faith is strengthened through everyday trials.

Our hope is transforming hope. Simon Peter wrote, “...set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do” 1 Peter 1:13-15.

J. Wallace Hamilton preached that, “Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.” The power to change comes from the hope that there will be a better tomorrow. Moses “chose not to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time...because he was looking ahead to his reward” Hebrews 11:25-26. 1 John 3:3 reminds us, “Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

One of the first novels I was assigned to read in school was, *Silas Marner*. I’ve never forgotten it. Marner was an old Miser whose life was wrapped up in the money he had accumulated as a weaver over the years. His daily satisfaction came solely from counting the gold pieces he had hidden away under the floorboards of his cottage. Then one horrible day someone stole it all and he was left penniless and hopeless. Silas Marner’s primary reason for existence for the past fifteen years had been wiped out. He had nothing to live for. He was a pitiful and bitter man. But then one wonderful day he found a little girl with golden hair on his doorstep. He was unable to determine her identity and reluctantly, out of sheer necessity, he began to care for her himself. As he sacrificed self for the wellbeing of little *Eppie*, he soon learned to love her, and his whole life took on a new meaning. Every day there was something to do, someone to love and something to hope for. When Silas got his mind off himself and his unfortunate past and onto serving his adopted daughter and her promising future, his life was wonderfully transformed. He was forced to interact with people in the community, his personality blossomed and townspeople began to love and respect him. People couldn’t get over the drastic transformation this little girl had brought into his life.

The lesson from Silas Marner was the same lesson that is taught in Scripture: life consists not in the abundance of things we possess, the number of pleasures we enjoy, or the number of people we impress. Life consists in knowing God and serving His people so they might have a better tomorrow.

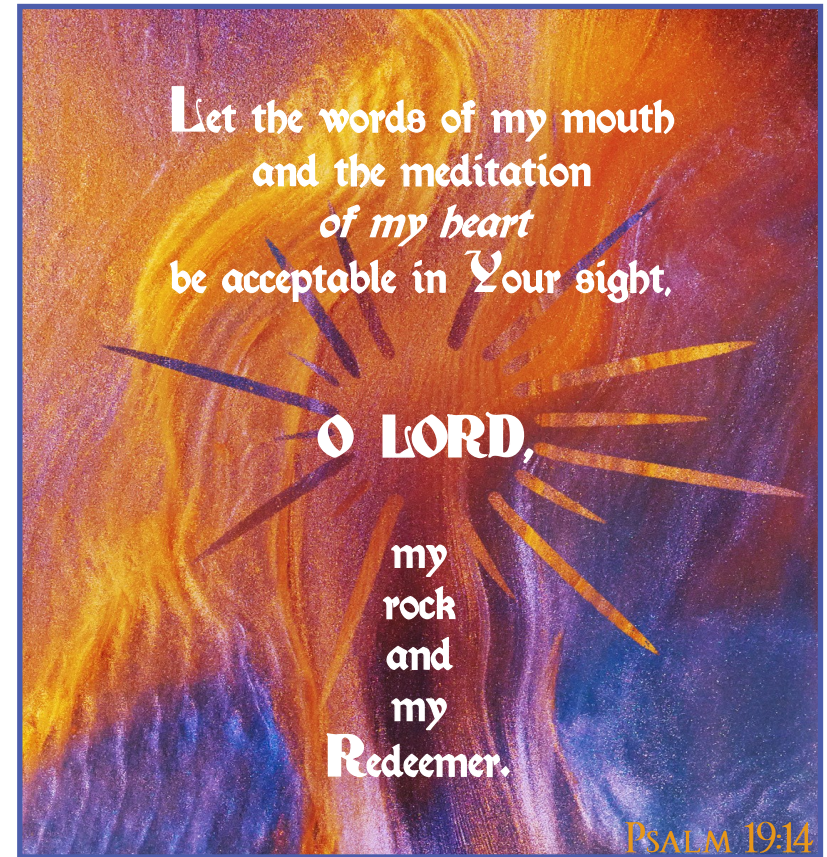
Someone said, “You can live for a month without food. You can live for almost a week without water. You can live for five minutes without air. But you can’t live a second without hope.” The thrill of following Christ is that our hope can never be taken from us. It’s as constant as Jesus. *Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.* (1 Peter 1:21)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez

May 2, 2021



Welcome to Church!

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a “*Connect Card*” and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions!

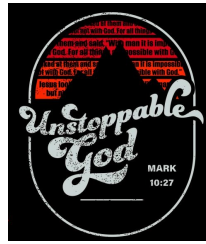
Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at www.fbcbelen.net, or you may call us at 864-8621.



July 26th - 30th
@Inlow Baptist
Camp

MusiCamp is an opportunity for children who have completed grades 2 - 6 to learn drama, vocal, dance, puppets & instrumental layers of a musical production. It is a great way to share Jesus with your children!

- ◆ **Cost: \$200 per camper**
 - ◆ **Full/partial scholarships Appreciated**
- If you would like to help us send our children to camp, please designate **Children's Camp** on your donation. **Thank you** for giving!

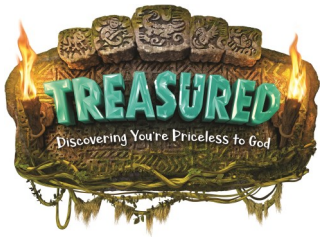


Men's Smoke - Off & Lunch

**Saturday, May 22nd -
Sunday, May 23rd**
Behind the MAC
Bring Your Own Smoker
The Church will provide
the meat.
Sign up at the CC Desk.

Sunday, May 23rd

All are invited to enjoy the delicious results of the smoke off! Lunch will be served in the MAC following Worship Service.
If attending, please sign up so we can have an accurate count to have enough meat. Sign up to bring a side dish/dessert at the Connection Desk as well. Thank You.



It's VBS Time!

Embark with us on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves & dense jungles as we help kids discover that God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold - *it's them!*

Monday, June 21st - Friday, June 25th
9 a.m. - 12 noon (doors will open at 8:45 a.m.)

Helpers are needed. If you are interested in joining us on this Adventure, please sign up at the Connection Desk.

VBS Planning Meeting: Sunday, May 16th - following the Worship Service

Frank and Elise Acree, members of FBC Belen who have moved to Texas, will be celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on June 22nd! Please join us in honoring them by writing out a memory, a card or a letter in celebration of this milestone.
Please submit your well wishes for Frank and Elise to the Church Office or to the Connection Desk by Sunday, May 23rd. Thank You.

National Day of Prayer

- Anna Becker Park
- May 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Join us in prayer as we proclaim this promise of God from 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Lord pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, & LIBERTY."

Baby Church Available

The P-5 classroom is open to all parents/grandparents with babies. Baby Church is a self-service nursery available for those who wish to step out of service to stay with their child and hear the sermon.

Church Office Hours

Monday: 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. . Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Friday: Closed

God
never gives us
discernment
in order that
we may criticize,
but that
we may intercede.
- Oswald Chambers -

Activities for the Week

Sunday - May 2nd
Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Young Adults @ the Sanchez' home - 7:00 p.m.

Monday - May 3rd

Tuesday - May 4th
Ladies Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday - May 5th
Deaf Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
Children's Ministry
Choir Practice
Rooted Youth
6:00 p.m.

Thursday - May 6th
National Day of Prayer

Friday - May 7th

Saturday - May 8th
Prayer - 8:00 a.m.
Ladies Tea - 9:30 a.m.

Deacons of the Week:

Deck Goodman
Red Flett

Safety Team - May 9th:

Terrence Bock
Jeremy Bock
Cindy Tinnin