

Five Bible Pictures of Hope

By Allen Webster

The Bible uses five pictures to help us understand hope. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then five pictures are worth a whole sermon full of words.

Hope is light—to help us see through the darkness of sin. God said, “I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed” (Psalm 132:17). As the lamp of the tabernacle never went out (Exodus 27:20–21), so gospel hope shines as a beacon drawing us to salvation. Hope does not deny the reality of dark and painful circumstances. However, it does shine a bright light into these valleys.

Hope is a peg—to hold things together when the world is falling apart. “Grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place” (Ezra 9:8). We all have those days when one bad thing after another happens (Job 1:13–19). Sometimes that “day” stretches into weeks in a hospital bed or waiting room, and months in therapy or grief (Job 7:3). How does one keep going? He hopes that tomorrow will be better.

Hope is a door—a way out of despair (Hosea 2:15). The meaning of hope in Scripture is almost the opposite of ordinary usage now. When we “hope” for something, we express uncertainty. Biblical hope not only desires a thing, it also expects it.

Scriptural hope does not mean “cross your fingers.” It is not a lip-biting gaze as you watch the kicker go for a field goal in the last seconds when down by two points. The confidence of hope is not mathematical or logical; it is a moral certainty.

Hope is a helmet—to shield us from the harsh blows of life: “As a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8). A helmet protects a soldier’s head in battle (1 Samuel 17:5, 38), a player’s head in a game, or a worker’s head in construction. The gospel blocks Satan’s vicious blows (Ephesians 6:10–17).

Hope is an anchor—to hold us in place in storms. There are sixty-six drawings of anchors in the catacombs, the tunnels where Christians hid during Roman persecutions. Hope was their anchor (Hebrews 6:19; 10:34). Christians have strong consolation (Hebrews 6:13, 17).

Hope is ultimately only found in Jesus. We get into Him and His church by baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27) and remain there by faithfully walking in the light (1 John 1:6–9). Our congregation is being careful during this time, and not doing the things we normally do, but we will leave the safety of our home to teach and baptize you. That is how important your soul is to God (Matthew 16:26).

Want hope in the midst of this chaos? There’s only one way: become a Christian.
—Original points by Wade Webster

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Barbara White fell Thursday hitting her face and hand.
- ◆ Dorlene Butler will have knee replacement surgery on May 17.
- ◆ Wayman King started radiation for prostate cancer last week.
- ◆ Kay Schneider (Bethany’s mother) had appendix cancer, and it ruptured. She had surgery to remove it and her ovaries and will have further surgery to remove most of her lymph nodes.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to Rebecca and Cayce Gosdin. His grandfather in Mississippi died this past week.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Emily Dobson, Casey Hambelton, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox (Dora), Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

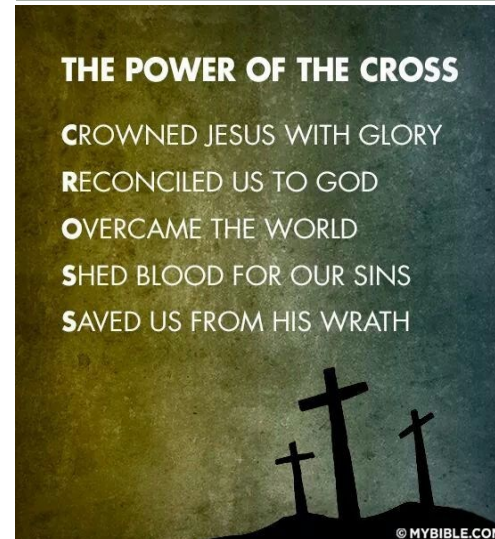
We rejoice with the Schneider family after Caroline and Charlotte were baptized last Sunday.

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

CROWNED JESUS WITH GLORY
RECONCILED US TO GOD
OVERCAME THE WORLD
SHED BLOOD FOR OUR SINS
SAVED US FROM HIS WRATH

AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE
FOR YOU, I WILL COME BACK AND
WELCOME YOU INTO MY PRESENCE,
SO THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE WHERE
I AM.

— JOHN 14:3



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
5-5	Peggy Johnson (70!)	5-9	Paul and Beth Wade
5-11	Brenda Strong	5-20	Ryan and Amy Stevens
5-15	Bentley Goodman	5-21	D. E. and Tiffany Pleasant
5-16	Steve Clodfelter	Birthdays	
5-18	Halbert Smith	5-28	Ryan Stevens
5-20	Gannon Schofield	5-29	Beth Wade
5-23	Barbara Luna	5-31	Julie Schofield

Barbara and Lana's menu is chicken and noodles, green beans, salad, jello, and dessert for our fellowship supper Wednesday night.

If you would like to contribute to buy some outdoor games for kids that would keep them safer in the grassy area, please see Titus or Jessica.

Congratulations to our Graduates:

Logan Hillhouse—Gainesville High School—May 16
 Abbie Johnson—Gainesville High School—May 16
 Emma McGinnis—Gainesville High School—May 16
 Bryce Hambelton—CofO—May 10—Bachelor's in Exercise Science

Date	Event	Details
Friday May 9th, 5 p.m.	VBS Crafting Night Bring finger food to share.	Come help make decorations and items needed for VBS.
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified! Pick up a butterfly magnet to remember to pray for VBS.	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

May Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

5-4 John Abraham
 5-11 Mark Lane
 5-18 David Stevens
 5-25 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Tinker Langston
 Paul Wade
 Titus Smith
 Don Reynolds

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Tinker and Karen Langston

The Family News

May 4, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Ascension and Return***

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Kids Singing up front

#639, Rescue the Perishing; #885, How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

#354, I Gave My Life for Thee; Communion Service

#712, Jesus Is Coming Soon

Sermon and Invitation

#916; What a Day That Will Be

Blue Skies and Rainbows; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
 Don Luna 417-712-1945
 David Stevens 417-679-4700
 John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
 Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
 James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us