



Wednesdays @ 11am via Facebook Live

# Overflowing HOPE

## November MBS Series

NOVEMBER 1ST  
NOVEMBER 8TH  
NOVEMBER 15TH  
NOVEMBER 22ND - NO CLASS  
NOVEMBER 23RD - PRAYER CALL @ 10AM  
NOVEMBER 29TH - NO CLASS

*All are invited to join us!*

*Ministry of  
Biblical Studies*

● LIVE

**November 1, 2023**



**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
MINISTRY OF BIBLICAL STUDIES Handout  
Leon Perry, III., Senior Servant

**Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church**  
**Ministry of Biblical Study Classes**  
**Overflowing with Hope!**  
Wednesday, November 1st, 2023

Enemy #1 Focusing on the Negative - I Corinthians 10:10-11

Biblical Definition

"Hope is an expectation with certainty that God will do what He has said."

Hope is an unshakable confidence in God — even when circumstances give us every reason to doubt.

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. (1 Corinthians 1:10-11 ESV)

Philippians 2:14, Do all things without murkiness and disputing.

"If you spend five minutes complaining, you have just wasted five minutes."

## **The Strategy to Overcome Negativity is to Focus on Positive and Praiseworthy Things.**

Negativity is nothing new. Since Adam and Eve were first banished from the garden, life has been hard and we have been complaining about it (Genesis 3:23). It is the nature of sinful humans to live for ourselves and to complain when our desires are not being met (Galatians 5:19–20). We tend to argue for our “rights,” demand our way, and oppose anyone who disagrees with us. That combination results in a general spirit of negativity toward the world and life in general. It is understandable if those who do not know Christ are negative. They have no hope of anything beyond this world and its confusion. But negativity in a Christian’s attitude means he is refusing to see life from God’s perspective. When we join in with hostility, pride, and complaining, we are reacting the same way unbelievers do.

Unfortunately, God’s people are often just as guilty of negativity and grumbling as those who do not know God. We often forget Jesus’s words, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Negativity was one of the Israelites’ gravest sins after God brought them out of Egypt, parted the Red Sea, and destroyed their enemies with a single, crashing wave (Exodus 14:16–18). Yet, as soon as the Israelites weren’t getting what they wanted, they began to grumble against God (Numbers 14:27). Rather than rejoice over all God had done for them and trust that He would continue to provide, they murmured and complained. The Lord hears when we do that, and it greatly displeases Him (1 Corinthians 10:10–11; John 6:43).

There is a difference between being grieved over sin and being negative. Someone who agrees with God over the gravity of sin also agrees with God that we should do something about it. When God saw the evil desperation of humanity, He did something about it (John 3:16). Jesus came to show us what God is like and to get involved in our messy world (John 14:9). He was not afraid to “roll up His sleeves and get His hands dirty” (2 Corinthians 5:21). As His Body (1 Corinthians 12:27), we remain to carry on the work He modeled for us.

Christians can counter the doom-and-gloom mentality with a gentle, loving, faith-filled approach to life (Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 5:14). We can refuse to be caught up in the hopelessness and me-first mentality that is too normal in the world (Philippians 2:14–15). We can offer light in the darkness (Matthew 5:14), truth in the midst of Satan’s deception (John 17:17), and hope in the face of despair (Psalm 43:5). First Peter 4:12–16 gives us some clear guidelines about facing trouble. Peter says, “Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”

Christians are to model a better approach to life. In the Beatitudes (Luke 6:20–23), Jesus gave us a glimpse into that better life. First Timothy 4:12 tells us to “set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” It is important to always keep in mind that, for the unbeliever, this world is as close to heaven as they will ever be. For the Christian, this world is as close to hell as we will ever be. When we live with that as our focus, we have the tools to combat the world’s negativity and model the abundant life Jesus came to give us (John 10:10).

## **Be United (1:10-11)**

Can you imagine the assembly as they heard these words? I have heard reports that you are fighting! It is because they have rivalries and fighting that Paul makes this appeal.

“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV)

I like the NKJV reading here because the word "same" appears three times in verse 10 and the NKJV reflects that literally in its reading.

I want you to speak the same thing, joined together in the same mind and the same judgment. This is the goal for the church. This is what will keep us from having divisions.

Consider that there are two aspects that are required of us if we are going to fulfill the command given here by the apostle Paul.

First, if we are going to speak the same thing and be united in the same mind and the same judgment, then we must be willing to adjust our opinions and world views to be in line with the gospel.

### **The gospel shapes our mental framework and changes our world view.**

The gospel changes the way we think about ourselves, think about life, and everything else about our world. We cannot assume that we have the correct world view. We cannot think that our point of view is the right point of view and everyone else's point of view is wrong.

We will never be of the same mind until we come humbly to the scriptures and allow the gospel message change what we know and what we believe. We cannot have an attitude that does not care what the scriptures teach and that we will continue to think and believe the way we currently do.

Our approach to the scriptures must always be one that is expecting to learn from God's word, knowing that we are darkened in our understanding and need the light of the gospel to change us.

Second, if we are going to speak the same thing and be united in the same mind and the same judgment, then we must be together where there are opportunities to share our understanding of the scriptures.

We cannot be of the same mind if I do not know where your thinking is and you do not know where my thinking is. We cannot speak the same things if we are not together speaking to each other.

This is one of many reasons why every assembly we have is so crucially important. Our Sunday morning Bible study, and Wednesday Bible study studies are the means of us speaking the same thing and being of the same mind and judgment.

The goal is not for me to tell you what to think. The goal is for us to teach each other and learn from each other. We should see the importance of Bible study and place a high priority on getting together at every possible opportunity that we can grow together in the faith.

This also means that we develop a culture in our gatherings where people are comfortable to speak what they are thinking about the scriptures so that we can grow together and not be in fear.

This is why I try to be very encouraging about having open discussions in our classes and that they are not lectures. We should not be uncomfortable when there are disagreements because this is the process for us to be of the same mind and judgment.

**The less you respond to negativity, the more peaceful your life becomes.**

