



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 15, 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 15th, 2023

**Drifting Away from God**

Hebrews 2:1-10

2 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

**Jesus Made Fully Human**

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him?"

7 You made them a little[a] lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor, 8 and put everything under their feet."

In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. [e] Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. 12 He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises."

**"If God seems far away, guess who moved."**

**The Strategy to Overcome Drifting Away from God is to Abide in Christ Jesus.**

John 15:4-8

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

I have noted several key things that tend to cause Christians to drift away from God. Here are five of them:

## 1) An Out-of-Control Schedule

Ephesians 5:16

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

One of Satan's greatest weapons against our generation seems to be his ability to make good people busier than ever before. We so often sacrifice the best things in life by spending time doing things that are just "pretty good."

If you desire to walk closely with God, you will absolutely, necessarily have to begin by taking a close look at your calendar. It is likely that you are currently doing too much. And it is also likely that your overly hectic schedule is affecting your relationship with God. So take out your pruning shears and begin to cut out any activities you can that will allow you to focus more time on your relationship with your Creator.

## 2) Misplaced Affections

1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Be careful not to set your heart on things that really don't matter. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen good people lured away from church life because they have fallen in love with things or activities that have no eternal merit. For example, children's sports can certainly be a thrilling activity for your kids to pursue. But if those sports begin to adversely affect the spiritual involvement and development of your family, then pull the plug immediately.

### **3) Discouragement**

During the past couple decades that I have served as a pastor, I have often watched Satan using his weapon of discouragement to drag people away from spiritual activities. I have seen it many more times than I can number.

When the trials of life cause a person to become discouraged, he often begins focusing on those problems and takes his eyes off of Christ. It reminds me of when Peter walked on the water. He did great until he took his eyes off of Jesus and began looking at the waves beneath him and the clouds above him.

It is important for you to know that when life's clouds grow dark and your trials become fierce, that is the time to run TO Jesus and not FROM Him.

### **4) Abundance**

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

We Americans are so fat with our own prosperity that we often make wealth our god and not the true King of heaven. This has also been a recurring theme throughout the entire Bible. People struggle, God blesses them, they become prosperous, and then they depart from God. Ironic, isn't it?

The chances are great that you probably do not feel like you are prosperous. But the reality is that nearly all Americans are extremely blessed and have more abundance than the vast majority of the population of the planet. If you are an American, you are most likely already a "One-Percenter" (wealthier than 99% of the world's population).

People of abundance often choose recreation over worship. Why go to church if you could be out golfing, boating, camping, or going to movies or sporting events?

Satan wants us to be prosperous, because our prosperity and abundance often lure us away from our Creator.

## **5) Parasitic Sins**

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Many people begin to drift away from God, because they have sins in their lives that cause them to feel guilt when they show up at church. And they feel reluctant to pray or read their Bible when they know they have these issues in their lives.

