

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

FEBRUARY 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

HOPE MATTERS

Some Thoughts by Bob Gentzel

Hope matters. We see that in the fact that “hope” is the subject of so many of the songs in our culture, songs like “High Hope” and “High Hopes”, “Hope in Front of Me”, “Hope For Love”, “Hope You Love Me Like You Say You Do”, “Free of Hope” “Whispering Hope”, “I Hope You Dance”, “Losing Hope”, “Living Hope”, “Dying Hope”, “Sleepwalking Through Hope”, “Hope Is An Open Window”, and “Hope I Get Old Before I Die”. And “Dropkick Me Jesus Through the Goalpost of Life” (thought I’d throw that one in just to see if you’re paying attention!).

We see it in the books we write- Amazon stops counting at 60,000 books on hope in their collection. “Hope” has been in the top 500 names for girls since 1909 (although it’s ranked only 231st in recent years - 112 spots behind “Ezra”); (that’s right- Ezra as a girl’s name!)

But what is “hope” exactly, especially from a biblical perspective? We want to know- we need to know, because one of life’s most painful experiences is finding that our hope has been misplaced- that we had false hope.

Hope is usually used today much like “wish”, “dream”, “possibility”, and “maybe” are used. But that’s not the way “hope” is used in God’s Word.

Hope matters in the Scriptures, and it’s addressed in a number of ways. We’re told that there are some things in which we are not to hope: 1 Tim. 6:17 says, “Command those who are rich in this present world not... to put their hope in wealth”. We “hope” that we will spend eternity with the Father in His heaven- Titus 1:2 speaks of “The hope of eternal life, which God, Who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time”. We have hope that, when Jesus appears, we will be made like Him: 1 John 3:2-3 assure us that: “when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” We’re told clearly in 1 Thes. 4:13 that we have a hope that those who do not know the Lord, sadly, do not have: “Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope”. Titus tells us in 2:13 that we “hope” for Christ’s return: “We wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ”. And Paul tells us in 1 Cor 13:13 of the eternal nature of hope: “Now these three (realities) remain (forever): faith, hope and love.”

Notice something about all of these “hopes” in the Scriptures- they are all presented in the Bible as certainties. Not “wishes”, not “maybes”, not “It could be but we don’t know”, but as realities with complete certainty. Think about it- is the return of Christ, for instance, a wish or a promised reality?

Why is that? Because “hope” biblically is based on the trustworthiness of the object or being in whom we place our hope, not on us. I will illustrate. Suppose you have a leaky pipe at home, and, if you’re as handy at plumbing as I am, you immediately make plans to call a plumber. You find three plumbers on

the internet, complete with reviews. As you read those reviews, you find that Plumber #1, when he says he'll be there at 9:00 the next morning, arrives at 9:00 only 50% of the time. Plumber #2, when he says he'll be there at 9:00, arrives by 9:00 75% of the time. Plumber #3, according to the re-views, when he says he will arrive by 9:00, arrives by 9:00. Every time. Never an exception. Never a flat tire on the way. Never an "I forgot to set my alarm". Never an "I had an emergency that kept me from coming". We can place our hope in his word because of his track record of always keeping it.

God is Plumber #3 (metaphorically!) His track record of keeping His word is spotless. Never late. Never forgets. Never a failure to show up. Never a failure to do exactly what He's said He will do. Never before, and so never in the future.

So hope, as used by God, is not just a wish or a desire or a yearning. That which we have hope for is certain and guaranteed. Our "hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness". What God promises, we hope - with certainty. Live in biblical hope!

PRAYER NEEDS

Dick Hickernell, Frank Hammond, COVID-19 vaccine success, Bill Fisher Family

Missionary of the Month: Milton & Erica Pacheco

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, and Trish Dolejs

Stay-Ins: All those regular attenders at home on Sunday!

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

(1 John 4:7-8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING TO YOU LIVE WEEKLY 10:15 A.M: We are live streaming the worship service every week as it happens. Go to the church Facebook page and watch!

Stay Connected: Don't forget to check out our website each day! www.franklinub.org

On the website you will find: weekly sermons, weekly announcements, special program information, our doctrine, history, and much, much more.

Stewardship Update General Fund as of December 31st:

Year to Date Budgeted: \$125,580

Year to Date Received: \$107,028

End of Year Deficit: (\$18,552)

Another way to Watch: Begin YouTube Live February 7th.

2020 Giving Statements: If you do not have your 2020 offering statement yet, please email Mavis Baker at kentuckygirl2@att.net or call her at 614-855-1769.

Your Help Is Needed: We need volunteers to staff the nursery/toddler room. At this time, we are likely going to need to combine the care. We need to be ready each week as needed.

A Very Big Thank-You: Thanks to all who were able to give extra in December to help cut the deficit.

Re-Purposing Your Life, Lent: The pastor is starting a sermon series called Re-purposing Your Life. This begins on February 21st, we will have The Purpose Driven Like book available for purchase. If 5 people sign-up for in-person or Zoom meeting, we will have small group at 9:00AM.

Building Fund Commitment - Sunday, February 14th: Love your church!