

## In Touch

### WHAT IS HOPE?

What is hope? Did you know the word hope appears 255 times in the Bible? Hope is something this world needs a lot of right now! Hope, according to Miriam-Webster is (verb): “to desire with anticipation, to *want* something to happen, to expect with confidence”. The first and second definitions are the most closely related to the worlds’ definition of hope, the third definition is most closely related to the biblical definition and use of hope. Hope as a noun is defined as: “Someone or something on which hopes are centered.” This definition also closely aligns with biblical hope, i.e. “For in this hope we were saved” (Romans 8:24a, in reference to the certain promise of being adopted as a child of God and the redemption of our bodies).

What is your hope? Good health, a long life? Comfortable 401K, worry-free retirement? It is ok to hope for these but these things mirror the definition of a hope that is: “To want something to happen.” There were maybe 100 million or more last week who hoped their lottery ticket was the winner of 1 billion dollars!

I don’t know about you but I prefer biblical hope over temporary hope. Biblical hope is eternal, temporary hope stops at the grave. Let me finish with a couple of scriptures that will leave you with hope. “...to them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of the mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27b). “While we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the day of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)

(This week’s message is taken from the Powerpoint of Kirk McVay’s sermon to be preached Sunday, January 31).

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

**Events:** February 14, “Love My Church Sunday” / Building Fund Commitment. Also, February 14<sup>th</sup> brief informational meeting about a Pre-school in our church

**Prayers:** Dick Hickernell, Frank Hammond, COVID-19 vaccine success, Bill Fisher family