

Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649
 (812) 944-2305
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Sundays
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
 Worship.....10:30 AM
 Worship.....6:00 PM

Wednesdays
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

Elders
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

Deacons
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

Evangelist & Editor
 Brian Anderson.....317-442-9507
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Goals For 2020
Theme
 A Church With 2020 Vision
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40;
Sunday AM: 50
Sunday PM: 40; Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Hold a "Bible Basics" Class
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

We are now in the 43rd week of our Bible Reading.

Prayer List
 Sharon Nale
 Les & Novema Dunn
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)
 Sharon Thompson
 The Wards & Beth McFarland
 Dale Kahl
 Brooke Thomas
 Pat Caudill

Hope: Rom. 8:24, Heb. 6:18-19

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
 Heb. 10:4-10

Scripture Reading
 AM: See Preacher
 PM: See Preacher

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month: 2
 Invites last month: 110
 Visitors last year: 48
 Visitors YTD: 8

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The
Clarksville Beacon
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Hope in the Psalms

Welcome!
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

My appreciation for the book of Psalms is far greater than I had as a younger Christian. It may be because of a better grasp of the Bible, or perhaps, I have a greater understanding of the purpose of life. Most of the psalms were written by David, the man whose heart was like God's heart. It is in the historical books we read about the thrilling events which happened in his life. However, it is in the psalms where David opens the depths of his soul so we can learn about his heart. Look at Psalm 131 to see this.

David, himself, and the world. "Lord, my heart is not haughty (marginal reading is "proud"), nor my eyes lofty (marginal reading is "arrogant"). Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me" (v. 1). Our world is so amazingly complex, and all that happens in it can so easily distract us as we try to figure it all out. Wars, rumors of wars, pestilences, earthquakes, revolution among the nations, political unrest in our own land and the struggles created by ungodly men can so easily overwhelm us. There are those things which are, to use the words of David, "great matters" and "too profound for me." David's solution was not to become haughty or to focus his eyes on such matters. David understood there were greater matters and more lofty matters on which to focus. What are these greater matters? Look at the next verse.

David, himself, and God. How did David react with the complexity of life around him? "Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul. Like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me" (v. 2). A newborn baby is helpless, for he understands nothing about his new world. One thing he does know is that his midnight cries bring his mother to hold him, to embrace him and to nurture him. There is no place more comforting on this earth for that infant. The same is true of a child who is weaned. He no longer needs his mother to feed him, but, oh how much comfort his mother's kisses, hugs and loving words bring to him—even as an adult. David had found the way and the perfect place to have that same peace in his life.

David, himself, and the future. Where was that place? "O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever" (v. 3). David, how do you handle the "great matters" and the "things too profound for me"? How do you handle the profound complexities of life? His answer—hope. One word sums it up. God is in charge, and He promises He will handle our future (Heb. 13:5-6; Rom. 8:28). How did David instruct the Jews to deal with "great matters and profound things?" One word—hope! How does David's psalm show us how to deal with things we cannot understand or control? One word—hope! If a young child finds comfort when held by his mother, how much more should we find comfort in His arms? Remember David's one word—hope!

Integrity-The Basis of Hope and Trust

We hear the word integrity used frequently and we value those who have it. Above all other people on this earth Christians should have this quality. It is the basis of trust and hope and positive interaction with those around us.

Webster defines the word as “having a firm adherence to a code especially moral or artistic values.” We live in a world where we wonder if we can trust what others say and struggle to give them the benefit of doubt in their actions. The problem is often a lack of integrity. Consider the importance of this word in our lives.

None can question the integrity of God. Three times the Bible uses the expression “God is faithful” (1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:18). He is trustworthy and Paul talks about his confidence he had in God. “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). Our relationship with God is based on His integrity to always do the right thing.

The problem comes when we have an expectation of others to have integrity—that firm adherence to a moral code of behavior. Paul wrote to Timothy about two teachers who once proclaimed the truth, but they no longer had integrity and now were denying the resurrection. After describing how the lives of Hymenaeus and Philetus had destroyed the faith of some, Paul said, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands” (2 Tim. 1:19). We must never let the absence of integrity of men weaken our trust in God.

Think about the importance of integrity in every relationship you have. As Christians we must have an unwavering devotion to our code of righteousness so that others can have confidence in trusting us. Destroy that integrity and the trust and hope others have in us is gone.

Children must see parents as having integrity. We must do more than simply verbally embracing devotion to honesty, purity, godliness and to the church. We must live it before them. This does not mean we never can make mistakes, for we all will, but it does mean they see how we handle these mistakes with the code of morality we have embraced in our lives.

Husbands and wives must treasure the integrity they bring to the marriage. Deception, lying, and deceit in dealing with our mates will bring ruin to the marriage. When they can have confidence in our unwavering devotion to the code of morality, the marriage is assured of happiness.

Staggering Promises

When Paul said that God “calls those things which do not exist as though they did” (Rom. 4:17), he laid the foundation for all that is involved in hope. Hope enables us to see the invisible. The apostle also said, “Hope that is seen is no longer hope” (Rom. 8:24). We do not walk by sight, but by a faith rooted in what God has promised. Things we are unable to see physically are seen through the eyes of faith as clearly as though they did. This truth is best understood by looking at Abraham’s hope.

God’s promises to Abraham were staggering, but not to Abraham. How was it possible that a man well beyond the age most men have children and a woman whose age gave no hope of ever giving birth would be parents so late in life? Yet, when God promised this would happen, “Abraham staggered not at the promise of God” (Rom. 4:20, KJV).

God’s promises are staggering to most. Atheists mock our faith by saying, “Do not give me my pie in the sky by and by. I want my pie before I die.” The ancients said, “Let us eat, drink for tomorrow we die” (1 Cor. 15:32). This view of life might bring momentary “pleasure,” but the future is filled with hopelessness. His promises are also staggering to those with weak faith, but Abraham’s faith was strong (Rom. 4:19).

God’s staggering promises allow the faithful to ignore external circumstances. In the midst of adversity, many turn their attention to their problems, but this was not the focus of the hope on which Abraham made life’s choices. The Bible said that he did not consider the “facts” and did not waver in unbelief (Rom. 4:19-20). Instead of looking outward, he looked upward. The hope that governed Abraham is the same hope we have when we anchor our faith in Christ.

God’s staggering promises are tied to the nature of God. Abraham knew that what God had promised He was able to perform. Throughout the Bible, the faithfulness of God is affirmed eleven times, but it is implied in every dealing mankind has with Him. God says it, and that settles it! When we embrace His faithfulness our view of life and its problems are drastically changed.

God’s promises have never failed, not even one time. When the Jews had conquered Canaan, the Divine record said, “Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass” (Josh. 21:45). Not even one word! This is why we can anchor our hope in the Lord and trust every single promise He has made. Anchor your faith in Him, and then when you come to the end of your life, you can look back and know that not a single word of all his promises have failed! Anchor your hope in Him!