

**Clarksville Church of Christ**  
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy  
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649  
 (812) 944-2305  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://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 40th 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  
 Pam Caudill

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

**Who Have You Invited To Services This week?**

**Lord's Supper Reading**  
 I Cor. 11:23-29

**Scripture Reading**  
 AM: Prov. 3:21-26  
 PM: Gen. 4:6-10

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

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Place Stamp Here



The  
**Clarksville Beacon**  
[www. Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

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**Hope**

**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.

**Read Prov. 3:21-26.** I'd like to talk to us this morning about Bible hope. Bible hope and worldly hope are different. In the word, hope is simply wishful thinking. We hope an event or circumstance may occur but we have not reasonable confidence or expectation that it will. Bible hope is built on confidence. As a matter of fact, the Greek word that is translated hope is ELPIS, which means, "confident expectation." Let's use our English word hope this morning and learn what Bible hope means to us.

**I. H ealing**

Rom. 3:23, 10; 6:23, Micah 6:13, Ps 38:3; 107:17, I Pet. 1:3  
 Ps 119:50;119:114, 9, I Pet. 1:22-23

**II. O ptimism**

Jer. 29:11, Phil. 3:1; 4:4, Ps 42:11; 121:7-8, Rom. 8:31  
 Heb. 13:5-6, Titus 1:2, Rom. 8:28

**III. P eace**

Rom. 15:13, Heb. 10:23, Lk 12:6-7, Micah 7:7, I Pet. 3:12  
 I Thes. 5:17, I Pet. 5:7, James 5:16, Phil. 4:6-7, 9

**IV. E ndurance**

I Thes. 1:2-3, Heb. 6:18-19, Rom. 8:24, Mt 24:13, Phil. 1:6  
 Is 40:30-31

## Hope For The Future

It is impossible for us to imagine the emotional rollercoaster endured by young Daniel and his three friends. They had lived all of their lives in one of the most spiritual times in the history of the Jews. In the six decades before they were born, king Manasseh and king Amon, had brought idols into Solomon's glorious temple. Yet Daniel grew up knowing only of the temple worship which Josiah had restored. For the two decades before they were taken to Babylon, the worship of God had been restored—they knew nothing of idolatrous worship. If you marvel at Daniel's faith, remember that the world in which he lived was a world where the Jews faithfully served God.

Three years after Josiah's death, Daniel was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to serve him in Babylon. That "rollercoaster of faith" descended into a pagan world saturated with immorality. After Daniel and his friends arrived in Babylon, idol worship began to flourish once again because of the new kings, sons of Josiah. Nebuchadnezzar would soon make two more assaults against Israel and finally destroy the holy city. Jeremiah was in Jerusalem and watched as Jerusalem was filled with false prophets. They prophesied that Nebuchadnezzar would return the holy temple vessels taken from the temple and be defeated by the Jews. These prophets were courageously confronted by Jeremiah for twenty-three years (Jer. 25:3). The world in which Daniel had been reared no longer existed. Sin had returned to Judah and God had sent the sword, famine and pestilence to try to get the Jews to see His judgment and return to Him.

Jeremiah sent a letter to those Jews who had already been taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. It specifically told them they would be in Babylon for seventy years, but then the prophet told them of God's promise. "I know the thoughts I have toward you...to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11). Two chapters later, God said, "There is hope in your future... that your children shall come back to their own border" (31:17).

How could there possibly be hope? The temple was destroyed, the city was leveled and the only physical connection Daniel could have with Jerusalem was to go to his window and pray in the direction of the ruins of the temple. How could there be hope when Nebuchadnezzar demanded all those in Babylon worship his golden idol. (Remember the fiery furnace?)

There was no physical evidence there would ever be a return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. How could there be hope when they were in a hopeless situation? The answer is simple. God promised them a future and God cannot lie. Are you on a "rollercoaster of faith"? Has your world collapsed around you? Have hope, for God cannot lie about your future!

## Faith, Hope and Love

Many Bible students would recognize the triad of "faith, hope and love" as the three things that Paul said would continue to "abide" among Christians after miraculous gifts "ceased" (1 Cor. 13:8-13). But how do these abide among God's people? Are they merely matters of the heart?

Paul frequently emphasized "faith, hope and love" in his letters (Col. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 1:3-4; Tit. 2:2; etc.). When he penned his first epistle (First Thessalonians), "faith, hope and love" were the focus of his second sentence. In fact, chronologically, this is the first place in the New Testament where these three come together. What can we learn?

Read the text: "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God" (1 Thess. 1:2-4). Note the word "of" before each of the key words in this text. Behind this English word is a prepositional case in the Greek which indicates that "the first word" is being produced by (i.e., "of") "the second word."

Paul was thankful for the brethren's "work of faith." Their faith was not merely a matter of the heart. Paul was not thankful that they had faith in their heart. Grammatically, their faith produced work. Of course, that is what true faith does (Jas. 2:14-26). Do you have faith in your heart? If you do, it will be evidenced (on the outside) by work for the Lord.

Paul was thankful for the brethren's "labor of love." Their love was not merely a matter of the heart. Paul was not thankful that they had love in their heart. Grammatically, their agape love produced labor (a Greek word that indicates arduous, wearying toil, that involves sweating, fatigue and straining one's all). Of course, that is what true love does (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). Do you have love in your heart? If you do, it will be evidenced (on the outside) by labor for the Lord.

Paul was thankful for the brethren's "steadfastness of hope" (NASB). Their hope was not merely a matter of the heart. Paul was thankful that they had hope in their heart. Grammatically, their hope produced steadfastness (a Greek word that indicates persistent endurance). Of course, that is what true hope does (Rom. 8:24-25). Do you have hope in your heart? If you do, it will be evidenced (on the outside) by steadfast endurance for the Lord.

Thus, when the Bible explains itself, it teaches us that faith, hope and love are not merely heart matters, but they produce the steadfast, wearying work that the Lord is looking for in His followers. Do you have true faith, hope and love?