

# The Old Hickory Bulletin

## Old Hickory Church of Christ

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### Where is Your Hope?

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." - David (Psalms 20:7)

We live in an increasingly unstable world. Locally, nationally, internationally—there has been much in the news lately to show us just how quickly our stability can crumble.

When the things that we lean on begin to crumble, we quickly find out where we are really putting our trust, our hope. As David wrote, "some trust in chariots and some in horses..." There are a host of different things we might put our trust in, or hope for:

- Some hope for a place where all people are accepted and treated equally.
- Some hope for protection from outside terror for themselves and their families.
- Some hope for a place to flee when their home becomes a place of hostility.
- Some hope for leaders who will bring justice and peace to their people and the world.

The fact is, if our hope is in any of these things happening in this world, we will often be disappointed, even disillusioned. Jesus Himself said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

We should pray for our communities, our families, our nations, and the world (1 Timothy 2:1). We should pray for our leaders, and those who would become our leaders (1 Timothy 2:2). But we should not put our hope in any of these things (Psalms 118:8-9).

The amazing thing is, God offers all of these things that we might hope for, but in a spiritual way:

- In God's kingdom, all people are accepted and treated equally as they turn from their ways to God's ways (Isaiah 2:2-4).

-- In God's kingdom, we find protection from our great enemy, Satan, who seeks to destroy us eternally (John 17:15; 1 Peter 5:8-9).

-- In God's kingdom, we can find refuge when the whole world might turn against us (John 16:33).

-- In God's kingdom, we have the Creator of the Universe as our leader, who will ultimately bring justice and peace to the world (Luke 18:7; Romans 16:20).

Lord, help us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness, for in You we have all we need and all we long for. Help us to put our hope completely in You, not in the things of this world, whatever they may be. You alone must be our strength, our shield, and our unshakable hope.

- Stephen Rouse

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## DID YOU KNOW...?

... that the Bible is written in such a way when read we can understand what is being said to us by God? Obviously, some parts of this great book are more difficult to comprehend than other sections. Yet we can grasp the message being taught by a willingness on our part to study. Paul said, "by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4). The mystery, of which the apostle spoke, was simply God's will which had been concealed and was now being revealed by holy men of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:5).

In 1 Timothy 4:13-16, this young evangelist was instructed to do several things with the word of God. He was told to read, give attention to doctrine or teaching, meditate, given himself entirely to them, take heed, and to continue in them. We certainly would do well to heed these instructions given to Timothy.

- Jimmy R. Mickells,  
via *The Hickory Heights Messenger*, April 10, 2022

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## Seize the Day!

*Carpe diem* is a Latin phrase that means "seize the day." I first remember hearing this phrase from Robin Williams's character in the movie "Dead Poets Society," but *carpe diem* comes from the Roman poet Horace's work "Odes" (23 BC). The entire line is "*carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero*," which can be translated as "seize the day, put very little trust in tomorrow."

The phrase is misused by some to justify a spontaneous, care-free, YOLO (you only live once) lifestyle. "Don't worry about tomorrow! Seize the day!" However, we are told that Horace was not saying that we should ignore the future, but that we should not leave the future to chance. Instead of blindly trusting that everything will be well for us in the future, we should use today to make sure we have the best future possible.

The Scriptures certainly agree with this approach to life. Tomorrow is not a promise (James 4:13-17). "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24).

We are to make the proper use of today by redeeming the time. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16). We "seize the day" by making the most of every opportunity we have to do good. Are you making the most of the day God has given you?

We are to make the proper use of today by securing our eternal salvation. "For He says: 'In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.' Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Obedience to the gospel is not something that should be put off until a more convenient time (Acts 24:25). "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Do not delay. "Seize the day" by becoming a Christian!

- Heath Rogers

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## Remember Your Creator!

Wise Solomon admonishes, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). How important it is for the young to early develop spiritual habits, to engrain them fully into the character. In so doing they will be provided with the inner fortitude to fight the battles they must as faithful soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, enduring hardships and avoiding entanglements with things of this life (2 Timothy 2:3-4). "Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." (Psalms 100:3). "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well." (Psalms 139:13-14).

Focus upon God as our Creator helps us to remember:

(1) *God's mighty power over mankind.* Man did not exist as an animate being before he was created by God in His image (Genesis 1:27). Reflection upon such great power will produce humility in regard of His divinely majestic invisible attributes: "His eternal power

and Godhead," (Romans 1:20). No man can comprehend the greatness of God's power. He created life! It remains for man to fear Him and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). When we think of the brevity of life (the days of youth quickly pass into adulthood) and its inevitable deterioration (adulthood passes into sharp decline), the best life never forgets the powerful Creator. To neglect and fail in this remembrance, one's capacity for joy will be lost in despair.

(2) *God's great knowledge of mankind.* David reminds Bible-students of this truth: "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it." (Psalms 139:1-6).

Solomon wrote of physical decline in old age (Ecclesiastes 12:1b-6); the body breaks down and eventually dies. Those who remember God trust Him to fulfill His promise to His servants: they will be given immortal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:53; 2 Corinthians 5:1-4). "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).

(3) *God's glorious future plans for His children.* God, through His Son Jesus Christ, has promised a glorious future life for those in Christ: "to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you," (1 Peter 1:4). People in this world who do not believe in Christ "have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). But Christians who remember their Creator live "in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago," (Titus 1:2). This is why the apostle Paul could confidently affirm, "in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me ... and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:8). There will come a day when the perishable mortal will put on imperishable immortality (1 Corinthians 15:54).

All people, young and old, should use the Bible to develop a proper perspective about God and His Son, about the Word of God and the fragile life God has given to every man. Blessed is the man who meditates upon it "day and night" (Psalms 1:2). Every man should learn to "Fear God and keep His commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Everyone will face God in judgment (Ecclesiastes 12:14; cf. John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10); no one will be left out. Knowing the terror of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:11), we persuade men to remember their Creator!

- Gary Smalley

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\* "Don't be afraid to go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is!"

- \* "Storms make oaks take deeper roots!"
  - \* "One who is all wrapped up in himself is overdressed!"
  - \* "Character is who and what you are when no one is around!"
  - \* "Whines are the products of sour grapes!"
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# ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

## **HEAR THE GOSPEL**

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

## **BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST**

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

## **REPENT OF PAST SINS**

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

## **CONFESS CHRIST**

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

## **BE BAPTIZED**

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

## **LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE**

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)