

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



Hope Versus Despair By Mike Riley

According to the dictionary, despair is a loss of hope, which brings about a state of hopelessness. A loss of hope brings about discouragement. Discouragement brings about a loss of courage, hope, and ambition because of obstacles, frustrations and the problems of life.

What can we do to overcome despair in our lives? We can look for hope; but not just any hope. We look for the kind of hope that is based on “the light” at the end of what can sometimes be a very long and dark tunnel (John 8:12; John 9:5; cf. John 1:1-5; John 3:14-21).

The Christian hope is anchored in Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). Through His perfect sacrifice on the cross of Calvary and God’s immutable oath that He would honor His promise to Abraham that through him, all nations of the earth would be spiritually blessed (Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 3:19-26; Gal. 3:6-9), our hope is made steadfast and secure (Hebrews 6:10-20).

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SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

No Bible Study This
Week Study of

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Drive-in Service
10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Family Bible Study
7:00 PM



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website
nscocmeridian.com

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“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
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How To Have Unity

By Ron Boatwright

What should be the basis of unity? Will just any unity suffice? Jesus prayed to God for unity of His followers by saying "that they all might be one" (John 17:21). How are we to be one? In His same prayer Jesus gives the basis for unity by saying "Sanctify them by your truth, your word is truth" (John 17:17). Unity can only be based on God's word of truth as found only in the Bible. The problem in today's denominational world is men have added to and taken away from God's word with their many differing creeds. Human opinion is made equal and superior to the word of God. We are warned in Revelation 22:18-19 if we add to or take away from God's word, we will lose our souls. The denominational world with all of its disunity is exactly what Satan wants. The word denomination comes from a root word which means division. Denominationalism is a betrayal of Christ.

Paul tells us how to have Biblical unity. "Now I plead with you, brethern, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). In order to have the same mind and same judgment we must have only the same beliefs and practices as found only in the New Testament. We must limit what we do to be saved and what we do in worship to only what God has authorized in scripture. This is the only way to have the unity for which Christ prayed and for which Paul pleaded. Throughout the Bible man's worship and service to God has either accepted or rejected depending on man's obedience to God's commands (Genesis 4:4-5, Leviticus 10:1-2).

There can be no unity between those who follow human opinion and those who follow only the word of God as found in the Bible. We are commanded, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?...Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17). Here we are forbidden to have unity with those who follow the false doctrines of men.

How can the denominational world defend their many differing doctrines when they cannot justify them scripturally? They can't. In trying to justify what one does he asks, "Is it a salvation issue?" In other words, "Does it really matter?" If one can shift the focus then there is no necessity in proving or defending one's unscriptural practice. Anything that differs from God's word is sin and sin is a salvation issue, "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). In speaking of the doctrine of Christ, "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds" (2 John 10-11). Let's not share in the evil deeds of the denominational world in joining with them or giving them any encouragement in their evil deeds. If we do we will be spending eternity with them.

As William Bradbury so eloquently wrote:

"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name
His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay."

Brethren and friends, no matter what sort of adversity or challenge that we might face in life, when we fix our eyes upon Jesus and His sacrifice (Hebrews 12:2), our hope for eternal life is solid and secure (Romans 5).

Hallelujah to God, who sent His perfect Lamb to redeem us from our sins (Romans 5:1-11; Hebrews 9), forever securing our place in eternity with Him (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Revelation 21:1-7).

Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments (Serrie Smith, Connie Montgomery, Ken Williams)
- All those affected by COVID-19
- Julia Juliano
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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2020 is in foyer

Announcements

- Baby Shower Drop-off for Austin and Morgan, May 31

May Birthdays & Anniversary's

- Austin Dudley - 4th
- Larry/Connie Montgomery - 20th
- James Johnson - 19th
- Tristan/Auburn Rowell - 23rd
- Anthony Juliano - 30th
- Shay/Robbi Cooper - 30th



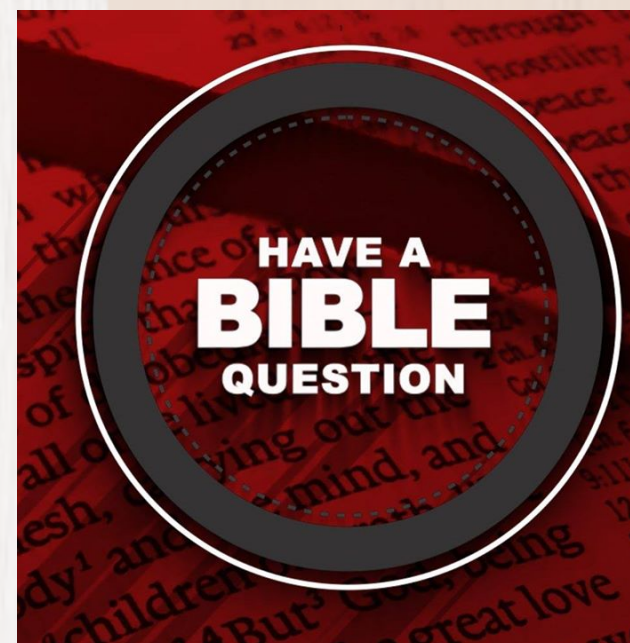
Men to Serve

Sunday Morning

- Announcements/Opening Prayer - Larry Montgomery
- Scripture Reading - Galatians 6:5-10
- Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
- Head of Lord's Table - Chuck Rowell
- Scripture Reading - Luke 22:15-22
- Closing Prayer - Chuck Rowell

Sunday Afternoon - No service

Every Sunday Morning
@ 6:00 AM
on WTOK-TV



- Comcast Cable 8
- Comcast Cable 438
- Comcast Cable 1012
- DirecTV 12
- Dish Network 9306
- Dishnet Local 49
- Over-the-air 11.3