

Happy New Year

January 2016
Newsletter

Thomas Village Baptist Church

The Reason for Hope

by Ted Cunningham

Our culture often defines *hope* as merely a fanciful wish or a casual desire:

- "I hope tomorrow is a better day."
- "I hope to go to Disney World next year."
- "I hope the Chicago Cubs win the World Series."



Clearly, what is hoped for may or may not come to pass. The hope of believers, however, is more than a desire or a wish. It's an unshakable confidence in God — even when circumstances give us every reason to doubt.

G.K. Chesterton observed that hope only has any real meaning when things are hopeless. "As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is a mere flattery or platitude," he wrote. "It is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength."

Parents must teach their children the difference between our culture's view of hope and the hope we have in Christ. Hope is not mere optimism or wishful thinking; it's an essential part of our faith. When we [hope in the Lord](#), as mentioned 23 times in the Psalms, the following benefits await us:

Hope in the Lord gives us [strength](#). Our culture teaches us to have self-confidence, but believers are to place their confidence in the Lord. When we hope in Him, we find the confidence and strength to face any challenge that comes our way.

Hope in the Lord teaches us [patience](#). Society encourages us to solve our own problems. But when we face an impossible or hopeless situation, we must learn to wait patiently on the Lord. We do not need to be anxious or worried. We can find peace in God's unfailing love for us.

Hope in the Lord brings [encouragement](#). You know that feeling you get at the end of a long week? The anticipation of the weekend lifts your spirits. Now think about stretching that weekend out for eternity. We can find encouragement and joy amid life's struggles because we know we will live forever with Jesus. That is why we are told to anticipate His glorious return (Titus 2:13).

Because of Jesus, we have hope both for this life *and* for eternity. Help your child learn more about our hope in Christ with the following age-appropriate activities and discussions.

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The Reason for Hope

(continued from page 1)

Key Points

- Hope is an unshakable confidence in God, despite one's circumstances.
- Hope is essential to a believer's faith.
- Hope gives strength, teaches patience and brings encouragement.

Family Memory Verse

Romans 5:5

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

Scripture Study

For a closer look at what hope means to the believer, read these Bible passages:

- Psalm 20:6-8
- Psalm 25:3
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Romans 5:1-5
- Romans 8:20-25
- 1 Timothy 6:17

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ATTENTION PLEASE

Please do not place any bags, boxes or other items in the front coat closet that will block access to the medical crash cart. It is imperative that it be accessible in case of a medical emergency. The closet is not a storage place for miscellaneous stuff. Please store church items in their appropriate place in the storage room downstairs. Thank you.

Birthdays

2-Jan	Phillip	Smith
3-Jan	Jessi	Adams
3-Jan	Seth	Chambers
3-Jan	Rachel	Glines
4-Jan	Linda	Arwood
4-Jan	Kathy	Pierson
7-Jan	Jessica	Roach
7-Jan	Nancy	Hartsock
8-Jan	Chris	Collier
10-Jan	Jamie	Carter
11-Jan	Dan	Bates
12-Jan	Sharon	Collier
12-Jan	Kristie	Quillen
13-Jan	Cassidy	Hammonds
13-Jan	Jay	Keck
13-Jan	Sarah	Walsworth
15-Jan	Michael	Fields
16-Jan	Kent	Lawson
16-Jan	Rick	Swanson
21-Jan	Kay	Jessee
21-Jan	Tommy	Tester
21-Jan	Keith	Walsworth
22-Jan	Andy	Legg
24-Jan	Carol	Arwood
25-Jan	Jared	Worley
25-Jan	Whitney	Worley
26-Jan	Keith	Baxley
26-Jan	Sharon	Holland
29-Jan	Corrine	DiMondi
31-Jan	Ruth	Bowen

6-Feb	Richard	Holland
7-Feb	Nancy	Carter
7-Feb	Peggy	DeBoard
8-Feb	Pauline	Berry
8-Feb	Virginia	Bledsoe
10-Feb	Alex	Collier
15-Feb	Danielle	Chapman
15-Feb	Troy	Miller
16-Feb	Mardi	Stewart
18-Feb	Amy	Hass
19-Feb	Haley	Woods
22-Feb	Kristie	Carter
26-Feb	Nathaniel	Smith
28-Feb	Sage	Quillen

Anniversaries

7-Jan	Chet & Margaret	Wheeler
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11-Feb	Shane & Tracie	Bowers
11-Feb	Matt & Lora	Smith
14-Feb	Buddy & Janey	Osborne
26-Feb	Jeff & Amy	Hass

Sunday School Perfect Attendance-December 2015

MEN	Paul Arwood
	Roy Baker
	Bill Bowen
	Joe Carter
	Jimmy Edwards
	Rick Holland
	Jay Keck
	Kent Lawson
	Larry Prevatte
	Keith Roach

YOUTH	Colby Dillon
	Amanda Dockery
	Zach Hammonds
	Bailey Nash
	Connie Smith
	Emily Ward

SINGLE YOUNG ADULTS	None
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YOUNG COUPLES	No Report

LIFE LESSONS	None

Sunday School Perfect Attendance-December 2015

PAIRS & SPARES	Pauline Berry
	Tony Bowen
	Hannah Fannon
	Ken Flanary
	Michael Hammonds
	Kay Jessee
	Adam Miller
	Phillip Smith
WOMEN	Linda Arwood
	Ruth Bowen
	Donna Brown
	Mozelle Carter
	Yvonne Edwards
	Sally Grebe
	Sabrina Holland
	Sharon Holland
	Ruby Keck
	Nathaniel Smith
	Rhonda Smith
	Hazel Stanley
	Wilma Tomlinson

Romans 16:17-18 (ESV)

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

NEW YEAR, NEW PERSPECTIVE

by Jaime Schreiner

As a couple, discuss [Philippians 1](#). Read the chapter together or individually, then focus your conversation on the following passage and discussion questions.

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment." — [Philippians 1:9](#)

- What's one thing you loved about me when we first began our relationship? What is one new thing you love about me now?
- What is something you've been surprised to learn about me?
- What can we do to learn more about each other?

We don't always notice changes in our spouse, particularly when we're with him or her day in and day out, but we can be sure that changes are taking place. Nobody remains exactly the same. No matter how long we've been married, there are always new things to learn about our spouse. If we decide to study our spouse with the right attitude, knowing God has placed treasures in him or her that we have yet to discover, we can experience a deeper love for each other. Committing to search our beloved for new reasons to love him or her can bring new life to our marriage.

This article appeared in the December 2015/January 2016 issue of Thriving Family magazine. Copyright © 2015 Focus on the Family. ThrivingFamily.com.





Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)
Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

DEACONS

Paul Arwood	431-2666
Otis Bowen	431-2622
Scott Jerrell	940-1261
Kay Jessee	431-2751
Frank Pennington	423-579-2918

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Children's Church	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
AWANA-(Sept-May)	5:00-7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Youth Group (Grades 8-12)	7:00 p.m.
KIDZ Club (K-7)	7:00 p.m.

Disclaimer:
 Every effort is made to ensure that all submitted articles, pictures, items, etc. are included in the newsletter. Any omissions or reporting errors are unintentional. Please let me know if there are errors or omissions that need to be corrected and it will appear in the next issue. Thank you.