

TODAY’S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader / Opening Prayer by: Don Taylor
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#742 When Upon Life’s Billows
#578 We Will Glorify

Scripture Reading by: Pierce Balch
#381 Years I Spent in Vanity

Communion Devotional by: Don Lynn
Lord’s Supper and Contribution

#648 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
Sermon: “Pop Quiz”
John 13:34-35

#915 Trust and Obey
#711 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Closing Prayer by: Walden David

We are watching the Chosen series
tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

Aug. 3, 2025

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

Hope Springs Eternal

Just a few days ago, the annual Hall of Fame Game was played in Canton, Ohio. This marks the opening of the NFL preseason, and, in many ways, the beginning of football season in general, at least in terms of live games (the quality of preseason football notwithstanding). For the next 6 months, there will be some form of a football game—high school, college, professional—every weekend until the Super Bowl.

This time of year is always extremely optimistic. At the outset of each season, every fanbase clings to hope for their team in the ensuing year, whatever level they play at. This is the year they will make it to the Super Bowl, or win the national championship, or end that long high school playoff drought. Some of those hopes are little more than wishful thinking; others are more grounded in reality. But, steadily, those hopes are dashed for every team but one.

We often build up hopes like that in our everyday lives. They might be mundane or they might be far-fetched dreams, but the key is that they are not rooted in any sort of expectation that a thing WILL happen; rather, they are simply what we WISH would happen.

Hope is a vital concept in Scripture, too. But its usage there is very different from ours. In Hebrew, the two most common terms translated as “hope” come from roots that can also be rendered as “to wait.” The meaning is entirely context dependent, based on the expectation of the subject: if there is confidence in your waiting, that is hope. The Greek term used in the NT builds on that, conveying not merely a desire, but an anticipation of a good outcome. In particular, the object of hope in the NT is often the promises of God, which are clearly associated with joy and confidence.

There are a couple of things worth noting about our hope, then. For one, hope always entails waiting. Now, you can wait without hope (as fans of the Dallas Cowboys can likely attest over the last quarter century). But if you are hoping, you are waiting. This helps clarify how faith and hope are related, yet different: *now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1)*. Faith is fundamentally our trust in God. That trust is grounded in hope, the confident expectation we have in him. Faith takes God at his word, accepting the gifts of promise today; hope confidently expects the fulfilment of that promise tomorrow. The key is that there is always a future dimension to hope.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Raquel Steed and Jenny Steed Ganneg, friends of Lori & Walden David have both been diagnosed with cancer.

Anthony Semien, Lori David and Lisa Orebo's brother, had a stroke. He has been moved to TIRR in Houston.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Oscar Cantu, Jennifer Stelly, Steve Ward, Geri Cryer, Gloria McKelroy, Scott Overton, Rickey Lucas, Debbie Lynn, Kim Berka, Steve Lunceford

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis, Jo Ella McKewen

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique, Rod Kyle in the South Pacific, Mani Pagidopali in India

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meeting Monday, Aug. 4th at 6:30 p.m..

Bridal Shower for Hope & Dylan Balch today from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship room.

Youth meeting after services this morning. Parents and anyone who would like to help, meet at the front to talk about upcoming events and plans.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Aug. 5th at 8:00 a.m.

Baby Shower for Lauren David Kleinerman, Saturday, Aug. 23rd from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship room.

We will have a Fish Fry, Sunday, Aug. 31st after morning service. More information later in the month.

Youth Retreat at Camp Red Oak Springs, October 10-12. For more information, see Brooks McKelroy.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Rita Upton and her family on the passing of her sister, Debra Acosta. She passed away on July 22nd.

That means, secondly, that the object of our hope will determine its quality. I might hope that the University of Texas will win the National Championship this year. In 2025, that will be a strong hope; but just 3-4 years ago, that would have been foolish (and a decade ago, it would have required the faith to move a mountain to believe that!). There are some in this world who live without hope, as Paul notes in **Ephesians 2:11-12**. I am convinced that most people cannot live like that; some degree of hope is essential. The question is where those hopes are placed.

Those who live in this world with false hope are far more numerous than those with no hope at all; they are all around us. And this is far more insidious than having no hope. Someone with no hope might accept the Christian hope. But someone with a false hope must first admit that they were wrong, that their hopes were misplaced, and alter their worldview—that's hard.

But that points out, finally, the quality of Christian hope in comparison to false ones. It is not a pie-in-the-sky wish. It is assurance. An old hymn we sing points this out:

My hope is build on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

After the crucifixion, the hopes of the disciples were shattered. As those on the road to Emmaus expressed about Jesus, *we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel (Lk 24:21)*. They misunderstood what God's plan was, so when their expectations were dashed, their hope was lost. It was a false hope.

But the resurrection restored their hope, with new joy and power. And that is precisely where our hope lies: *I wholly lean on Jesus' name*—there is no stronger basis for hope than that. God has already won the victory! Our hope is based on the certainty that Jesus is risen from the dead, and that one day, he is coming back. Let us, then, wait in hope—not in ourselves, but in him.

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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