



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Messenger

“PROCLAIM CHRIST, MAKE DISCIPLES, SERVE THE LORD”

625 W. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA * Phone (530) 662-1935 * October 2020

Dear Saints at St Paul's,

I have seen a large amount of frustration and despair in the last six months. Dealing with the pandemic and health concerns, fires, changes in employment, and politics has brought on stress. This stress has come in the form of anxiety or depression, a short temper, anger or loss of hope. Often when asked about difficult time, I can point to the time when it will end or get better. This year the end has not been so clearly in sight. In fact when expecting things to get better, situations may have changed to a new level. So where is a Christian to find hope? The obvious answer is in Christ Jesus our Lord, but how do you begin hope?

My first thought on hope is found in a hymn, On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. Direction and comfort comes from knowing what is next and confidence in the outcome of what you want. When what you want seems blocked by so many obstacles, we struggle. As Christians we HOPE in Christ Jesus! Romans 5:5 tells us: Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us (NKJV). We rely on God's gift of the Holy Spirit and his ever presence in our life to comfort as we wait on the Lord. All other ground is sinking sand. Reflection on some well known scripture may help.

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken. Psalm 55:22

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

These and many other verses provide hope. Have you considered the mind of GOD? Maybe God is not going to change the situation how you want, but he could change how you think about it? Maybe God is allowing the struggle to strengthen you for whatever the next thing that is before you? God may never give you what you want, but he does know what is best for you. Again, all other ground is sinking sand but Christ the solid rock. Take comfort that he is in control. You don't have to have all the answers, and he will sustain you. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:19). That is a sure and certain hope in Christ Jesus!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David Hardin