

From The Pulpit

by Rev. Donald M. Clark

THE NEED FOR HOPE

Text: "Rejoicing in Hope." Rom. 12:12.

HOPE IS A PRICELESS possession, one which each of us can have. If this resource is ours, we need not be affected by panic in the stock market, by rumors of war, nor by any one of a multitude of adverse circumstances which each new dawn may bring. An old English proverb says, "If it were not for hope, the heart would break."

To keep our hearts sound and to maintain the poise and strength of manhood are essential for vigorous and healthy Christian lives.

Hope is within the reach of every hungering soul. The Bible tells us that "we are saved by hope." We ought to read the Bible, for it is a book of hope. Hope shines as a guiding star from verse to verse and chapter to chapter. Biblical hope is God's wonderful hope for the human race and for each individual in it. The Bible is a record of man's spiritual inheritance, proclaimed by Him who is called "the God of Hope." Hope dwells in God and God imparts it. St. Paul grasped this when he said: "The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, that ye may abound in hope."



REV. D. M. CLARK

THIS IS THE HOPE our world desperately needs. Our generation has seen the calamity of war. The treasures of centuries have become dust in brief, ghastly minutes of bombing. Multitudes have lost hope for a better day. Our gay, confident optimism has been shattered. The world needs hope if it is to be saved. Most of all, we need the hope that the "Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Each of us also needs the individual hope that God has made us for His glory, and that His eternal purposes for us are not going to be defeated on the earth.

Life for individual man is full of failures and disappointments. Repeated failure, our inability to measure at evening the anticipation of day-break, our bewilderment in doing evil when we mean to do good--these facts of daily life make us discouraged. We need to be buoyed up by the confident hope that in the great eternal plan "the best is yet to be," and that by God's help we may all rise to higher things and stand complete at last in what the Bible calls "a man in Christ."

IF SUCH ANXIETIES fill your heart, here is God's word of hope: "We are saved by hope," "Hope thou in God!" and "Rejoice in hope."

We need hope for each new day. If you face the new day with hope, your life will be happier. Hope causes you to work in a better frame of mind. You work more wholeheartedly and, therefore, more successfully. But hope must be inspired by Christian faith. Christian hope brings cheerfulness of countenance and wholesome conversation and a quiet trust. Begin the day with God, take Him with you as comrade and guide wherever responsibility requires you to go, and fix your mind on what God, through you, may accomplish. Your step will be positive, your voice radiant, and your effort worthy.

We need hope in the building of our characters. The day can never exceed the possibilities our characters represent. The better day comes through the expression of better character. We can all be great in character, in moral and spiritual attainment. We can all be truly Christian. For no matter how the grip of sin holds us or what disease of despair baffles us, we can, through Christ, find freedom as we strive to live like Him. When Christ becomes our hope, through us He becomes also the hope for man.

WE NEED HOPE in the building of a better world. We need the wisdom and the vision of the prophets of Israel. However dark the environment of their lives, their hearts were filled with hope, for above the world of men they saw

"So live that when thy summons comes to join the caravan which moves in that mysterious realm, thou go not like a quarry slave, at night scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed by an unflinching trust; approach thy grave like one who wraps the drapery of a couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."
THANATOPSIS.

Mrs. Veola Woods *Final Rites* Mr. James A. Doss

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1966
11:00 a. m.

PALM CHAPEL



MONDAY, MAY 9, 1966
1:00 p. m.

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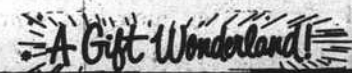
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We wish to thank all the members of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and all other Churches as well. Second Baptist Church, New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Evergreen Baptist Church, St. James Baptist Church, Victory Baptist Church, Zion Methodist, The Federation of Choirs, The Minister's Union, The City Wide Usher Board, The American Singers Association, The Everneer Club, The Carpenter's Union and other friends and loved ones.



REV. J. L. KEMP

We are appreciative to each and every one for your contribution and your kindness shown during my shut-in.

I will be making my first appearance back in the pulpit, Sunday, May 15, at 11 a.m.

Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Kemp

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the Kingdom eternal, and they lived within the framework of that Kingdom. As they struggled to bring that eternal Kingdom within temporal circumstance. Their hope was founded upon the wisdom, the goodness, and the power of God. The New Testament strikes the same hopeful and expectant chords. In the last book we are given the picture of a "new heaven" in the future. Christ Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus was the greatest optimist the world has ever known. In the world unseen He directs according to His purpose. In the seen world, too, He directs when men in faith acknowledge Him. Let us take our stand with Him, and work with Him, the Captain of our Salvation knowing that through Him humanity may move to a new, glad day that will fulfill the glowing descriptions of the prophets and seers, yea, even of Christ Himself.

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