

“THE ONE HOPE”

In April of 1829, Alexander Campbell met Robert Owen, a Scottish socialist and atheist, in a public debate. Sometime after the debate, Mr. Owen was a guest in the Campbell home in Bethany, West Virginia. One day they were walking in the fields together. Owen turned to Campbell and said, "I have one advantage over the Christian." "What is that, sir?" Campbell asked. "I am not afraid to die," replied Owen. "If I had a few business affairs arranged, I could lie down and die without fear." "Have you any hope in death?" Campbell inquired. "No, sir; I think that death is the end, and I am without hope and fear in death." "Do you see that ox over there?" asked Mr. Campbell. "It has filled itself with the grass of the meadow, and now stands in the shade of the tree, without fear and without hope in death. Tell me, sir, what does infidelity do to elevate a man above the beasts?"

Hope is one of the great values of a Christian. The apostle Peter wrote: "**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ ...**" (I Peter 1:3-5). It is depressing to live without hope, to believe that things will never be any better. How unutterably sad it is to be among those "having no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). Hope is what keeps us going. It is what makes life exciting. Hope gives us something to look forward to! The Bible teaches that there is only one hope (Ephesians 4:4). But for the faithful Christian this one hope has several significant dimensions. It involves our resurrection from the dead. Before the Jewish Sanhedrin council Paul said, ". . . **concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged**" (Acts 23:6). This hope of our resurrection, in turn, gives rise to the hope of eternal life. "**In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,**" wrote the apostle Paul (Titus 1:2).

Our hope therefore is of heaven where this eternal life will be experienced. "Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven," said the apostle (Colossians 1:5). "Reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4). Finally, this hope consists of becoming as Jesus now is. "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (I John 3:2-3). "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body . . ." (Philippians 3:20-21). What about you? Is your life filled with hope or with despair? Only the person who is Christ and in whom is Christ has any real hope! Paul declared: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). **DP**

SERMON PREVIEW:

March 27 *Wilderness Developments* **April 17 Guest Speaker, Jerry Brewer**
April 3 *Drawing Power of the Cross* April 24 *You Could See it in His Face*

April 10 *Sharing Christ, For Christ* May 1 *Why Acapella Music?*

The Salisbury Beacon

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March 27, 2016

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord’s Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. **BE A PART OF OUR FAMILY – the Salisbury Church of Christ.** ****Please fill out a Visitor’s Card and place it in the collection plate****

ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

SONG # 545 A WONDERFUL SAVIOR

SONG # 556 THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE – 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6

SONG # 707 ON BENDED KNEE

LORD’S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 218 IN MOMENTS LIKE THESE

SERMON: "WILDERNESS DEVELOPEMENTS"

SONG # 364 I GAVE MY LIFE FOR THEE

SONG # 5..... STEP BY STEP

CLOSING PRAYER

“Return to Me and I will return to you”- God!

“DID THEY DO RIGHTLY?”

Dub McClish Denton, Texas

The bulletin of another congregation announced that two members of the church had responded to the invitation on a Sunday morning. They publicly repented of forsaking the assembly of the saints. Did they do what was right? It is obvious that they had become convinced that forsaking the assembly of the Lord's people is a sin. Were they correct in this conviction, or were they just being overly conscientious? Is it a sin to forsake (enkataleipo—abandon, leave) the public assemblies of the church? Hebrews 10:25 bears directly on this question: **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”** If ignoring and disobeying a direct prohibition of inspired Scripture is sin, then it is a sin to forsake the assemblies of the church. (Note: Merely being absent is not necessarily the same as forsaking. One's absence may be due to illness or other things beyond the absentee's control; however, one who forsakes an assembly has the ability to be present, but he intentionally chooses not to be present.) Many other principles besides the foregoing prohibition in Hebrews 10:25 argue the sinfulness of thus behaving (e.g., Mat. 6:33; Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25; 2 Pet. 3:18; et al.). Of course, forsaking the assembly is actually only the symptom of deeper spiritual problems. Those who choose to be elsewhere than with one's brethren when they come together need to ask themselves some questions: • Do I truly love God and His Son? • Do I truly love the Word of God? • Do I truly love the church? • Do I truly love my brethren? • Do I truly want to go to Heaven? • Do I truly love lost souls? One cannot answer “yes” to these questions, continue to forsake the assemblies of the church, and remain honest.

It is sad to see the stubbornness with which some saints seem determined to commit this sin. Such might be expected of a babe in Christ who is still trying to change deeply embedded habits of the past. One is grievously ill spiritually who has been a Christian for 10, 20, or 30 years or more and he has not learned this elementary principle of the Lord's will. Some of these are not about to come except one hour on Sunday morning, despite classes taught, sermons preached, and exhortations given. Related to the foregoing, what is the logic (or Scriptural basis) of using such men as prayer-leaders, song-leaders, and servers at the Lord's, table as if they were spiritually sound? What message does this send to the forsaker and to young people and new converts? Further, some who are generally present every time the church meets will nevertheless let circumstances (e.g., weather, being “tired,” having unexpected visitors, et al.) keep them home from the church's meetings that do not keep them from going to work, going to school, going shopping, or engaging in other activities the next day. What will these brethren say to the Christ who died for them when they meet Him at The Judgment? What will He say to them? The couple described in our opening words above did exactly what the Scriptures teach us to do when we sin publicly—repent and ask forgiveness publicly (Acts 8:22). Brethren everywhere who are guilty of this sin should follow their noble example.

WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

LET US PRAY FOR: Church Growth: Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Elaine Bradley** said her son, Bruce Lauder, who is dealing with addiction issues, is also having seizures. Please keep Bruce in your prayers.
- **Bob & Diane** ask for our prayers for their neighbor's son, Jimmy McMillion, who has leukemia, which has returned for the 4th time. He is 43 years old and raising 2 teenage girls and other children. He has been fighting this for 20 years. Also please pray for Bob & Diane as they travel.
- **Herman & Wilma Duke** will be in Kentucky through the Weekend. Wilma says her mother is doing rather well following breaking her femur and fracturing her hip. It was not a break. Please keep them all in your prayers. .
- **Debbie Post** is feeling better after having the effects of chemo and the flue that I gave her. She returned to CT to be with her sister and her son, Austin, who suffered many broken bones and lacerations due to a car accident last week. Please keep Austin and Debbie in your prayers.
- **Book Shelves** in the office were made and installed by Bob King. Please take a look and see the wonderful work he did. I have neglected to make note of this previously.
- **Mail Box, Gospel Meeting Sign, Lawn:** Thank you to Roland for putting back up our mail box that someone knocked over, and for putting up the sign for our Gospel Meeting. And, thanks to Brenna for mowing our lawn. Looks great!!!
- **Gospel Meeting (21 more days and counting). Please pray for a successful gospel meeting. INVITE, INVITE, INVITE!!!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 2 (Saturday) Ladies Bible Class at the building

April 9 (Saturday) Work Day at the building. Remember, many hands make for light work!

April 15-16 (Friday - Saturday) Men's Days (Laurel COC, DEL)

April 17 (Sunday) Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer & Song Service

April 18, 19, 20 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Gospel Meeting

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) – Ladies Day, Laurel, Maryland Church of Christ

**** The Potluck for April will be on April 17, the opening of our Gospel Meeting ****

GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 17 – 20

Sunday 10 AM & Mon. – Wed 7 PM

ETERNITY! ARE YOU READY?

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm