

A Sound Church

A sound church is not merely a church that sounds good, but rather one that is firmly anchored in truth!

“That they may be sound”
Titus 1:13

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| Sound in DOCTRINE | • Titus 2:1 |
| Sound in FAITH | • Titus 1:13 |
| Sound in UNITY | • John 17 |
| Sound in ORGANIZATION | • Ephesians 4:11 |
| Sound in WORK | • Titus 3:1 |
| Sound in WORSHIP | • John 4:24 |
| Sound in TEACHING | • 2 Timothy 4:1-4 |
| Sound in GIVING | • 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 |
| Sound in ZEAL | • 2 Corinthians 9:2 |
| Sound in LEADERSHIP | • Acts 2:38 |



“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.” Titus 2:1

Barnes' Bible Charts

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He Is Always Near



The Brilliant Beacon



The Hope that Is in Us

Randall Evans

In 1 Peter 3:15, we find these words, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” This charge was given from the apostle Peter to Christians of the early church, but it still very much applies to us today. Let us take a close look at what we are charged with doing.

Our Defense

Peter said by inspiration that we must be ready to give an answer. This word “answer” comes from the Greek word apologia, which means a defense. As Christians, we must stand prepared to defend the faith we hold so dear. This preparation, however, will not come without effort on our part. We must study God’s Word (2 Timothy 2:15) in order to be knowledgeable, and we must be knowledgeable in order to capably defend what we believe. Notice also that the text says, “always ready.” This indicates continual preparation and study on the part of the faithful Christian. We might not know every single answer to every single question, but we stand ready to find the answers for every man who would ask.

Our Disposition

Our disposition is the manner in which we are to give an answer. This manner is given in the text. We are to give an answer to others with “meekness and fear.” Meekness means with humility. We should never beat people over the head with the truth, but rather we ought to defend our faith with modesty. There is no room for pride and arrogance in teaching others. We know that those who do not obey the truth will be lost, but we should not be happy about this! We should agonize over their lost state and love them enough to teach them the truth in love. Notice also that we are to give a defense with “meekness,” but also “fear.” Does this mean we need to be fearful of others when we teach them the Gospel? Absolutely not! This fear is a healthy fear for God. We are to reverence Almighty God, realizing we ourselves have imperfections as we strive to teach others a perfect message. The right disposition can make all the difference in trying to teach someone about a loving Savior.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Buddy Frazier: undergoing cancer treatments, please keep him in your prayers

Hunter Coal Corkren: treating his kidney problem with medicine, please be praying that this problem clears up with this treatment

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: he is fighting cancer, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Bobby Sanderson: continues to improve, please pray he has no further problems

Gunner Pendley: recovering from severe brain injury, please keep him and family in your prayers

Janet Spann: has severe COPD and other health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Tammy Dodd: recovering from recent stroke, please pray she makes a full recovery

Jeff Upton (Donna Martin’s Co-worker): weakness in his legs, please pray that this will improve

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Tyler Upton: is now home recovering, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Winfred York: doctor said he was able to remove all the cancer from his bladder, please continue to pray for him and Mrs. Vertie

Larry Eads: (member at Carbon Hill) diagnosed with stage 4 esophagus cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Celia Grace Hamlett (3 year old): biopsies came back cancer they are doing blood studies to confirm; let us pray that the results are negative and that she is cancer free

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Our Destiny

Notice the text says that we are to teach others of the hope that is in us. So, what is the hope that is in us? This is the hope of Heaven (1 Peter 1:3-4). This hope is not a blind leap in the dark, as some make the statement, “I hope I go to Heaven.” This hope is much more than that. This hope is based on evidence. This hope is based on God’s promises to us, and this hope is one of absolute expectation for the faithful Christian. We expect to go to Heaven because God has promised that all faithful Christians will go there. As Christians, we need to be ready always to tell others of this great hope!

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

To Him Who Overcomes

By Terry Wheeler

This phrase, found some eight times in the Book of Revelation, declares so very clearly that the Christian must beat this world and its temptations, if he wants to get to Heaven. It cannot be said too often that we are at war: with the world’s standards (1 John 2:15-17), with the world’s peer pressure (Romans 12:2) and with the world’s god (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). As creatures of flesh as well as spirit, this would seem impossible.

Yet, as Paul said, “Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” (Romans 7:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:56-58). We can triumph over all these things so that we can have good hope of hearing on the Last Day, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21; Romans 8:31-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17).

The answer is simple and, yet, involved. “This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4). It is also the grace found in the propitiation that covers our sins forever, found in Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1-2). It is also our faithful endurance to the Faith, our consistent obedience at all costs to endure to the end (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

It is not impossible for us. In fact, every Christian has this power to overcome (Acts 2:39-42). However, Heaven and our God must mean everything to us. We must love nothing more than Him.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com

Whenever I Am Afraid

By Raymond Elliott

A few years ago, I heard the late beloved Franklin Camp deliver a moving sermon as one of the speakers on the Faulkner University Lectureship. I believe the theme of the lectureship that year was, “Blessed Assurance.” Brother Camp was referring to various passages of Scripture that had sustained him over the years. He also related that in the month of May, 1981, he learned that he had to have open-heart surgery. He said that he had to wait twelve days before he could have surgery. While lying on a hospital bed for that length of time, he admitted that he was afraid, realizing the seriousness of the kind of surgery. He then thought of Psalms 56 that was written by David during a very trying time in his life. David had to flee from the presence of Saul who sought to kill him, and he also had to deal with the Philistines who wanted him dead. In this particular psalm, David was seeking the help of God to deliver him from those who sought his life. In verses 3 and 4, David wrote, “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?” Again, in verses 10 and 11 it reads, “In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”

Brother Camp noted that David was a strong man, having killed a lion and a bear while protecting his sheep, and David had killed Goliath the giant (1 Samuel 17). Yet, David said that he was afraid. Brother Camp said that if David could be afraid, so could he. Yet, the encouragement is found in the statement, “In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid.” Please note that there seemed to have been a progression from verse 3 when David said, “I will trust in You,” to verse 11 when he declared, “in God I have put my trust.” As I listened to this great man of God confess his fear along with David’s, I thought to myself, if David and brother Camp could be afraid at times, surely, I could also be afraid in certain circumstances.

However, David said that he trusted in God when he was afraid. That trust in the Lord will calm the troubled soul. The word trust is mentioned 74 times in the Book of Psalms and carries the idea of leaning on and trusting in someone; to have implicit faith and full confidence in another. In Psalm 46:1, we have the beautiful words, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble...”

Again, David exclaimed, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by” (Psalm 57:1).

We are presently experiencing some “calamities” in our nation. Christians should be in much prayer for those who are the leaders of our nation on all levels. We should draw near to God, and He will draw near to us (James 4:8). We should all adhere to the advice given in Proverbs 3:5-6, which says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.” Go to Him in prayer and leave there your every care, and He will uphold you with His everlasting arms. “The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices; And with my song will I praise Him” (Psalms 28:7).

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Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5