

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Josh Berryhill

Opening Prayer: Eddie Dickinson

On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery  
Servers - Ralph Burleson  
Billy Box  
Bradley Box

Closing Prayer: David Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Lellie Dickinson

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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# Questions Concerning Heaven



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



### **The Soul's Anchor Is the Hope of Heaven**

By Jason Jackson

The Czech playwright Vaclav Havel contemplated, “Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.” For the Christian, however, hope in God is both — things will turn out well, and make sense, “in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Romans 2:5).

The Christians in Colossae had a deep faith in God and abiding love for Christians. So should we “because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens” (Colossians 1:5).

“The emphasis on hope reminds us that the salvation which believers already enjoy in Christ has a future aspect” (F.F. Bruce, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1984, p. 41). The preposition rendered “because” identifies a connection between the Christian’s faithful and loving conduct (Colossians 1:4), and his expectation for the future. “On account of” the hope of heaven, he so lives. The child of God anticipates a heavenly home, and this is his soul’s anchor (Hebrews 6:19).

“Hope” is confident expectation. The prospect is that something great is real and obtainable. Various phrases, connected with “hope,” help us understand the Christian’s perspective. We live with confidence because of what God has promised to the faithful (cf. 1 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:13).

“The hope and the resurrection of the dead” means “the hope of the resurrection” (Acts 23:6). “And” (kai) is exegetical, defining the object of hope as the resurrection (W. E. Vine, *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Unabridged Edition, McLean, Virginia: MacDonald, n.d., p. 572). The resurrection is God’s redemptive finale, a victory over the death-consequence of sin, which prepares us for eternal habitation (cf. Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

“The hope of the promise” is the expectation of the benefits of God’s eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:9-11); all of his promises will come to pass (Acts 26:6-7).

### **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

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

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

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

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

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy); planning on traveling to Italy for gene replacement treatment; please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Tony Lawrence: please continue to pray that he will continue to improve

Virgie McMillan (mother of Ann Box: dealing with complications from a recent stroke, please keep her in your prayers

Don Lawrence: had a temporary knee replacement because of an infection. He will be taking antibiotics to clear up the infection and then will have a total knee replacement; please be praying that the infection will clear up

Karen Chaffin: has had fainting spells, please pray that the doctors can determine what is wrong and that she will have no serious problems

Nelda York Bishop: recovering from spinal surgery, please be praying that she has a successful recovery

Jamie Long: doctor was pleased with the outcome of his hernia surgery, please be praying that he has a successful recovery

Pray for all those dealing with COVID especially those of the household of faith.

“The hope of righteousness” is the realization of total conformity to the will of Christ, through his saving plan, at his coming (Galatians 5:5).Also, note the phrases, “the hope of the gospel” (Colossians 1:23); “the hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:2); “the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13); “the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8); “the hope of his calling” (Ephesians 1:18); and “the hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2).

The “God of hope” (Romans 15:13) imparts to Christians a “living” (1 Peter 1:3), “blessed” (Titus 2:13), and “good” (2 Thessalonians 2:16) hope, through the “patience and comfort of the scriptures” (Romans 15:4). Simply put in Colossians 1:27, the message preached to the world is this: “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Note in Colossians 1:5 that the Christian’s hope is not, “You can live forever in paradise on earth,” as the title of a Watchtower Society publication asserts. Rather, the “one hope” (Ephesians 4:4) is “laid up in the heavens.” Such a hope is not for an exclusive 144,000 (see “Who are the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14?”).

The Christians of the Lycus Valley learned pure Christianity. Paul wrote that these truths were “heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel” (Col. 1:5). They learned and obeyed the gospel (i.e., the “good news” of salvation in Christ).

The gospel has not changed. We, like they were, are encouraged to adhere to it (cf. Colossians 2:6). Only the truth gives hope — real hope — and “hope is,” as the American poet Wallace Rice put it, “the patent medicine for disease, disaster, and sin.” Heavenly hope through the gospel of Jesus Christ is the anchor of the soul.

John Eadie summarized Colossians 1:5 very well when he wrote:

“The word of the truth of the gospel’ could alone reveal the nature and the certainty of future and celestial blessedness. The idea and expectation of spiritual felicity and glory in heaven are not connected with the sciences of earth, which deal so subtly with the properties and relations of mind and matter. These forms of knowledge and discovery lead but to the lip of the grave, and desert us amidst the dreary wail of dust to dust and ashes to ashes, but the truth contained in the gospel throws its radiance beyond the sepulcher, unveils the portals of eternity, and discloses the reality, magnitude, and character of ‘the hope laid up in heaven” (Commentary on the Epistle to the Colossians, 1856, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1957, p. 12).

To study the word “hope,” and the phrases in which it is found in Scripture, is to study the promises of God. With hope, we can persevere. With the hope of the gospel, we will realize heaven.

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**Going Home**

By Kevin Rhodes

Many people do not ever have a question as to where they will be buried. They have lived their whole lives basically in the same place and expect to be buried in the family plot. This sounds similar to Jacob's words at the end of his life. "Bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt: But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt, and bury me in their burying place" (Genesis 47:29-30).

Although on the surface we might think that Jacob simply had a sentimental attachment to the family cemetery, his words hearken back to the promise that God made to him that his family would grow to be a great nation and prosper in the land of Canaan. Jacob had lived for seventeen years in Egypt, but he never considered it home. He was reminding the family that they were only sojourners in that land, and that God had promised them a home somewhere else. This is the same attitude we need to have today. We are strangers and pilgrims upon this earth (1 Peter 2:11) who are traveling through life, however long our stay, in order to reach our ultimate destination of heaven, the place of our citizenship (Philippians 3:20). Too often, we are so wrapped up in where we are that we forget who we are and where we want to go. It does not matter so much where you are buried upon this earth, but it does matter whether or not, upon death, you, as God's child, are going home.

Obtained at: [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com)

**Be a Worthy Citizen**

By Mark McWhorter

Many of the ancient cities took counts of their citizens. It was considered high praise to be counted as a citizen of the city. Not just anyone was allowed to become a citizen. Sometimes it required fulfilling certain strict requirements. And as a citizen of the city, one was expected to behave in a certain way. Most of the time there was a pledge that one took.

In Philippians 1:27, we read, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

The phrase "let your conversation" is translated in some versions as "let your manner of life." The actual Greek word means, "to live as a citizen." Christians are citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem, the church (Hebrews 12:22-23). Not just anyone is a citizen of the church. One has to fulfill certain requirements to become a citizen of the heavenly Jerusalem. Then one has to continue to live as a proper citizen.

Notice that the Gospel is connected with this citizenship. One must read, study and obey the Gospel to be a proper citizen. Then one is obeying the King of the city, the Lord. A Christian pledges to live worthy of the Gospel. When one becomes a Christian, he pledges to live like Christ. He is stating that he will have a mind like Christ.

Keep reading your Bible. Learn all you can about how to be a citizen in the heavenly Jerusalem. And if any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

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