

"Advent Hope!"

[Please keep in mind, **this is the very abbreviated version** of the Sunday sermon and much is missing, so make sure you get the Marvell/Lexa Messenger for the whole Sermon and more!] Titus 2:11-13!

I have many fond holiday memories from my early years growing up on the East coast, but the "most wonderful time of the year" for me was always the Christmas season. As the weeks moved on, I intensified my earlier research in our copy of the *Spiegel* Christmas Catalog. With a cold glass of store-bought eggnog in hand, I would check and double-check to make sure that my Christmas wish list items were clearly indicated in the catalog by bright red, hand-drawn arrows. Oh, how I hoped that my Christmas list would be completely fulfilled. With weeks of great anticipation and high hopes, Christmas morning finally arrived and with that special morning came the earliest day of the year for me to arise from bed. Losing little time, the presents were unwrapped and, at an early age, I slowly learned and subsequently re-learned some of life's more unpleasant lessons, i.e., sometimes my hopes were dashed, by the disappointment of not getting that ideal gift, even though it was very clearly marked with bright red arrows. Other times my hopes were dashed when I actually got what I wanted but the toy either quickly lost its appeal or it offered little to none of the fun that the television commercial had falsely promised. Even when the present was as wonderful as I thought it would be, the passing of time would soon make it obsolete or it would just fade into oblivion of forgotten toys all on its own.

Many of our hopes and dreams in this world are like my Christmas wish list...with great anticipation, we hope for something great and either we don't get it or as soon as we have it, it loses its appeal or its not all that we hoped that it would be. This can happen with the objects of our desire or with the people who come into our lives. Some of us have even discovered that many of our many hopes were nothing more than pipe-dreams and fanciful wishes. We might have even developed an unspoken belief that most of our hopes can't even be depended upon to actually happen, like hoping that it doesn't rain on our picnic in the park.

We can get weary and grow cynical of our hopes and perhaps we might even look in the Bible and see the word "hope" in the same way...as a fanciful wish or pipe-dream that probably won't ever happen. The Apostle Paul faithfully prayed and trusted in the hope of the return of Christ and the resurrection, but this did not discount the fact that in this world he had, and knew that we would also have, many tribulations, trials, and troubles. In *1 Peter*, verses 3-9, we read, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*" Earthly hopes might go by the wayside, but when it comes to our heavenly hopes, we have a much surer promise!

Let's take a look at biblical hope in *Titus 2:13*, "*looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*" The phrase *Blessed Hope* is great! The word blessed is the same word we see in the beatitudes, *makarios* and can mean, *supremely happy!* In the Greek, the word for *hope* is *elpis* (*el-pece'*) That word *elpis* (*ἔλπιω*) means to *anticipate*, usually with *expectation* and *confidence*. So what kind of hope do we have? We have a *supremely happy* and joyful hope because there is a *confident expectation* that what God has promised will come to pass!

The Apostle Paul writes to remind the people of the words of the prophets with regards to the hope of Israel for their messiah...*Romans 15:4-5; 12-13* "*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, so that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*" ¹² *And again Isaiah says, "There shall be a root of Jesse, and He who shall rise to reign over the nations, in Him shall the nations trust."* ¹³ *And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*"

And so we can all be supremely happy because we have the hope (a confident expectation) that Christ will return again in His second advent, at the end of days, and take us to where He is for all of eternity. On this First Sunday of Advent...our hope, our confident expectation, of the second coming of Jesus and our resurrection to eternal life is not based upon mere wishful thinking or fallible human beings who can let us down, but it is built upon the solid rock of our salvation, Christ Jesus our Lord. If you know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, then you can rest in that confident expectation of an eternity with Him. But if you don't, you can come to Him this very day and leave with that kind of hope in your heart! He won't disappoint you!

So remember always that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Brother Gary

Calendar for the Week

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Exercise
11:00 a.m. Cooking Class
5:00 p.m. Youth/WOW
6:00 p.m. PPR Meeting
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Classics
5:00 p.m. Exercise

Friday

9:00 a.m. Exercise
Pairs & Spares Party

Sunday

7:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Lexa Worship

Sunday

9:55 a.m. Marvell Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Marvell Worship
4:30 p.m. Luke Bible Study

Monday

9:00 a.m. & 5 p.m. Exercise

Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Exercise

Liturgist - Mickie Cox

Acolytes - Kailin Hollaway/Wesley Turner

Greeter - Toney Keys

Nursery - Tammy & Randy Catlett

Youth SS - Matthew Lambert

Advent Candles - Gene, Micki, Kevin & Anna Davison

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2018 Budget	\$178,908
Needed each week	3,441
Received this week	3,378
Capital Improvements	35
Special Thanksgiving Offering	200
Prison Ministry	20

ATTENDANCE

Lexa Worship	7
Marvell Sunday School	55
Marvell Worship	94
Bible Study	10
Youth/WOW	21

Blood Pressure checks Sunday before SS.

PPR MEETING - WEDNESDAY - 6 P.M.
Pairs & Spares room

PRAYER REQUESTS

Charlotte Wayman - 114 PC 328, Helena 72342
Ashley Woodyard DeBolt - 23250 North 120th Lane,
Sun City, AZ 85373
Parker Stegall - 5436 Hwy 121S, Marianna 72360
Jan Hickey & Paula Oliver - 1039 Park Hill, Helena
Jimmy Young - 3156 Hwy 316 N, PG 72374
Owen Allen - Eugene & Shirley Young's great grandson
Addison Heidelberger- 11 Echols Cove, Greenbriar 72058
Annie Head - 2016 Concrod Dr, Flower Mound, TX
Ashley Bobo - Box 2, Helena 72342
Boby Von Kanel - 3133 Phillips 600, Marvell
Carrie Davison - Box 711, Marvell
Sylvia Griffin - 403 Happy Circle, Hot Springs 71913
Harold Cummings-95 Rocky Top Rd, Mayflower 72106
Mildred Clatworthy - 11547 Hwy 316 S, Marvell
Mary Leggett - Box 561, Marvell (LA Lammers mom)
Hugh Jacks - Crestpark, Box 386, Marianna 72360
Elizabeth Aycock - 1254 CR 1750, London, AR
72847 (Louis Aycock's niece)
Curtis Bridges - West Nile virus
Gloria Higginbotham - 16175 Hwy 49, Marvell
Enicita Cantilang - %Rhea Cumberland - Box 32
John Armstrong - Box 265, Balmorhea, TX 79718
Jason Webb - 3109 NE 66th Terrace, Gladstone, MO
64119
Becca Campbell - 1015 Lancelot, Russellville 72801
Hubert Smith - 1415 Main #12, Marvell
Baby Johnny Bond - 2276 Birchton, Germantown, TN
Misty Russell -
Jerry Robertson - 2061 Hwy 242 W, Lexa 72355
Ian Miller - 736 Fontwell Ln, Franklin, TN 37064
Frankie Broom - Crestpark #128, 116 November Dr
Vern Hamelback - %Ruby J. Turner - Box 163, Lexa
Sherry Tuminello - 1204 E 19th St, Stuttgart 72160
Delores Jackson - Box 13, Marvell
Elizabeth Jones - 1151 Hwy 1 N, Lexa 72355
Jody Cook - 6253 Basilone St, Tarawa Terrace, NC
Aubree Odle - 920 E View Dr, Grenada, MS 38901
Doris Wallace - 301 N Pine, Marvell
Alan Wildschuetz - 5 Bear Trail Cove, LR 72210
Carolyn Blake - 291 Concord Cades Rd, Trenton, TN
Velma Howell - 609 Phillips 139, Marvell
Mike Wilke - 201 Ridgemont, Helena 72342
Louis Aycock - 297 Phillips 367, Poplar Grove 72374
Billy Moore - 2371 Phillips 625, Marvell
Kevin Forrester- 1565 N State Hwy 8, New Boston, TX
Ruby Jean Turner - Box 163, Lexa 72355 (TN)
Opal Muscalino - Box 8, Lexa 72355 (LR)
Janette Griffin - Box 126, Lexa 72355
Gloria Treadaway - Box 22, Lexa 72355
Jennifer Heavner - 209 W Ash St, Brinkley 72029
Lee Scarbrough - Uganda
Landon Jones - 5460 Fox Den, Hernando, MS 38632
Sandra Myton - Box 103, Marvell
The Family of Larry Spakes - Illinois
The Family of Martha Ann Black - OK
Victims of Natural Disasters
Travelers & Farmers
Special prayers for Marvell & Phillips county
Service men & women, Police Officers, Firefighters &
Emergency Personnel & their families

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Jody Richards Cook had her last treatment
Baby Johnny Bond & Mildred Clatworthy are home
Mary Ned Foster is doing better
Vern Hamelback is improving but still needs prayers
Dan & Janine Dubach have a new granddaughter
Family & friends visiting

HONORARIUMS

**KEATH GROVES, KIM ROBINSON
WALT, BECKY & KENNEDY MCCORD**
Steve & Jeanne Groves

MEMORIAL

JAY & CORDELIA DAVISON
Jimmy & Bettie Davison

HAROLD HENDERSON

Mary Henderson

UMM BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be Sunday
at 7 a.m.; cooks are Bruce Hayes & Bill Heidelberger.
All men in the community are invited.

CHRISTMAS CARD

Please get your Church Christmas Card to Nina by
December 9. Lannie Travis will take pictures Sunday;
see him before or after church.

ANGELS

Donations for Angel Honorariums & Memorials need
to be in by December 16; get your list to Nina.
Donations can be any amount.

CHRISTMAS NEEDS

We need toys & gifts for children & teens in Marvell
for the give away on December 21. We also need
canned hams for the food pantry. Extra help is needed.

VISITORS

Richard King - WH
C.J. Davison - Marion
Triston Heidelberger - Greenbriar
Stephanie Powell - Cordova, TN
Billy Washburn - Bartlett, TN

THANKS

Greeter - Toney Keys, Bryan Wayman, Hailey Lambert
Acolytes - London Boone, Brooklyn Wolfe
Liturgist - Mickie Cox
Youth SS - Shannon Young, Bryan Wayman, Elaina
Clemons, Matthew Lambert
Ushers - Kevin Davison, Bill Heidelberger, Matthew
Lambert, Winston Turner
Nursery - Delia Travis, Shannon Young
Children's Time Prayer - Casher & Hailey
Hanging of the Greens - Kortni Carroll, Randy Catlett,
Kevin Davison, Leigh Ann, Nina & Shelton Guest,
Becky Hall, Connie & Triston Heidelberger, Toney
Keys, Jennifer King, Hailey Lambert, Courtney
Turner, Barbie Washburn, Billy Washburn, Shannon
Young
Advent Candles - Chuck & Beth Schaffhauser
Communion - Mickie Cox, Kailin Hollaway, Jennifer
King, Lauren Turner, Courtney Turner, SS Class
Float - Connie Heidelberger, Lisa Polk, Kimberly
Lambert, Frank Polk, Jody Lambert, DR & Barbie
Washburn, Triston Heidelberger, the kids that rode

Thank you so much for all your cards & prayers. I
appreciate the notes & cards. It means the world to me
that you all are praying for me.

Love you all very much! Jody Richards Cook

BIRTHDAYS

8 - Wesley Turner
11 - Bettie Davison, Christen Davison
12 - Aletha Gibbs, Madison Lambert

Get your money to Nina for the poinsettias!!