

The Lure of the Couch

I will be the first to admit I have always enjoyed spending time sitting on a comfortable couch. I enjoy the times I have sat visiting with family and friends. I enjoy it when I have time to sit and watch a good movie or TV show. I know some people who think their couch is the perfect spot to take a nap. Each of us has probably spent time sitting on a couch or maybe in our favorite recliner. All of these things can be enjoyable and even good for us. However, the couch can also be a lure that keeps us from doing things that we need to do.

The Bible warns us of the dangers of being lazy. A comfortable couch, with entertainment right there for us in the form of video games, television, or even spending time with friends, can be a powerful lure. In today's world, with the threat of the virus, we receive mixed messages telling us that we need to try and live a normal life, while also telling us to stay home and away from people. This may have led us to the feeling that we have been given permission to sit on the couch even more than we did before.

No matter what is going on in the world or in our own lives, one thing should remain our top priority, making every effort to secure our salvation (**Philippians 2:12-13**). Living the Christian life takes time and effort from us. The Hebrews writer tells us the importance of continuing to grow in our faith, not becoming lazy or complacent, and the dangers of falling away. *"We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised"* (**Hebrews 6:11-12**).

Don't let your couch lure you into doing nothing. God expects us to work and bear fruit (**John 15:1-6**). ~Brad Tolbert

MINISTERS
Pulpit Minister
Paul Mowrer

Campus Minister
Brad Tolbert

Youth Minister
Jason Meier

Secretary
Cathy Mowrer

ELDERS
Mike Beard
Larry Fisackerly
Joe Moore

Deacons
Marty Baker
Chris Bryant
Ray Linder
Jason Meier
Jeff Newton
Josh Pettigrew
Kerry Rice
Jeremy Wilson

Assemblies

SUNDAY
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Assembly 10:30 AM
Assembly 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 6:30 PM



"...speaking the truth in love..." Eph. 4:15

November 22, 2020

TRUE SPIRITUAL HOPE

One of my fondest memories of my childhood was the time of year where summer was over and the holiday season was just around the corner. The reason that particular time is so memorable to me is because it just happened to be the time we would receive the Sears Wish Book. I can remember pouring over the pages of that marvelous catalog with great anticipation of what Santa may bring. I remember thinking, "I hope I get..." (fill in the blank).

We often use the word "hope" in a way that indicates a wishful desire. There's nothing particularly wrong with that usage. The challenge comes when we see this word being used in Scripture. The writers of the Holy Book were not simply referencing wishful desires when they penned the word "hope." There is a great sense of anticipation or expectation in their use of this word.

Certainly, our world is filled with challenges, and our spiritual journey is marked by moments of tremendous pressure as we seek to follow the example of Jesus. We ought always to be thankful to God for the hope we have in Christ. Because of God's great mercy and Christ's resurrection, we are born again to a living hope (**1 Pet. 1:3**). The apostle opened his letter to Titus by saying, *"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began"* (**Titus 1:1-2**). Paul was meaning the anticipation or expectation of eternal life because of God's love and mercy shown through the substitutionary sacrifice of His Only Son. We need to have this kind of hope — true spiritual hope.

True spiritual hope is expectation and desire fused into an attitude that is unwavering. It doesn't matter what happens, our hope, our anticipation, our expectation is eternal life with God.

True spiritual hope puts the world into perspective. Our world is reeling with civil unrest and a global pandemic. We are facing an ever-increasing hostility toward Christianity. But this world is not our home, and the hope we have reassures us of that fact. ~Keith Harris

*via Wind Song church of Christ
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HEART—TO—HEART

Kay Crook is in Jefferson Regional Hospital in Pine Bluff, room 3263A, with a broken knee cap. She is undergoing additional tests.

Christy Rice remains in St. Vincent’s Hospital in Little Rock for rehab.

Candice Carter is scheduled for outpatient surgery Wednesday, November 25.

This Wednesday evening, (Nov. 25), we will meet for our **regular Bible classes** beginning at 6:30.

We are sponsoring a cottage from the **Paragould Children’s Home** for Christmas. Money may be given to either **Stacy Usry, Shirley Fisackerly**, or the **Mowrers**.

Reminder to the **Deacons** that *budget requests* are due Sunday, November 29.

Next Sunday, November 29, is our **Fifth Sunday Building Fund** contribution.

Everyone is invited to an **Outside Christmas Movie Night** Friday evening, December 4, at 6:00 at the church parking lot. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Hot chocolate will be served.

Persistence in prayer is not an attempt to change God’s mind, but to get ourselves to the place where He can trust us with the answer.

~Warren Wiersbe

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 22 - Worship live streamed at 9:30
Nov. 25 - Regular Wed. evening Bible classes

Nov. 29 - Fifth Sunday Building Fund

Dec. 4 - Outside Christmas Movie @ 6:00

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Members:

Lyndell Baker...Tony & Judy Beard...Kay Crook
Ray Leonard..Rita Stiles...Donnie & Janice Wright

Shut-ins:

Clara Cooper...Betty Henry...Betty McGuire...
Linda Rabb...Bob & Pat Turner...Marie Wooten

Serving in the Military:

Corey Bryant... Donnie Collins...Braydn Curtis...
Noah Draper...Tucker Koonce...Matthew May...
Neil Rampy...Christian Stepanovich...Mathew Tannehill... Curtis Walker

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Butch Baker..Valerie Bryant (due in Dec.)...Candice Carter...Dr. Jay Connelley...Lydia Cowgill...Hazel Duggar... Alpheia Evans...Dorothy Foster...Mike Frost...Terry Gibson...Eloise Harris...Lavon & Betty Light..Ronnie Light..Shirley Majors..Rita McBroom
Stephen McKinney...Percy & Dana Morris...George Nickolson..Ronald Pettigrew..Kerry & Chloe Phillis
Janetta Pugh...Howie, Christy, & Anna Rice..David & Loyce Ray...John & Christine Riddle...Kelsy Robinson (due in Apr.)..Joe Rogers...Eddie Don Russell...Homer Shirey...Tess Smith...Mary Jane Speer...Marvin Spencer...Harold Stuart...Sharon Sullivan...Joe Thompson...Joel Thompson...Cherise Webb...Sue Woodward

Birthdays & Anniversaries



| | | |
|------|----|----------------------|
| Nov. | 23 | Judy Beard |
| | | Monty Meier |
| | | Corey & Holly Dial |
| Dec. | 28 | Jeremy Wilson |
| | 3 | Mckenzie Light |
| | | Dillon Rabb |
| | 4 | Bob & Pat Turner |
| | 6 | Denon Weaver |
| | | Marty & Sandra Baker |
| | 8 | Jeff Newton |
| | 11 | Jeff & Sara Newton |
| | | Monty & Mamie Meier |
| | 13 | Dylan Thompson |

November Daily Bible Reading Schedule

23 Romans 13-16
24 1 Corinthians 1-4
25 1 Corinthians 5-8
26 1 Corinthians 9-12
27 1 Corinthians 13-16
28 2 Corinthians 1-4
29 2 Corinthians 5-8

Things You Can Control

1. Your beliefs.
2. Your attitude.
3. Your thoughts.
4. Your perspective.
5. How honest you are.
6. Who your friends are.
7. What books you read.
8. How often you exercise.
9. The type of food you eat.
10. How many risks you take.
11. How you interpret situations.
12. How kind you are to others.
13. How kind you are to yourself.
14. How often you say “I love you.”
15. How often you say “thank you.”
16. How you express your feelings.
17. Whether or not you ask for help.
18. How often you practice gratitude.
19. How many times you smile today.
20. The amount of effort you put forth.
21. How you spend/invest your money.
22. How much time you spend worrying.
23. How often you think about your past.
24. Whether or not you judge other people.
25. Whether or not you try again after a set back.
26. How much you appreciate the things you have.

| Attendance | | Schedule of Volunteers for Communion to Shut-in | | MISSIONS |
|-------------------|----------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Bible Class | | | | Truth for Today |
| Sunday AM Worship | 94 | | | In Search of the Lords' Way |
| Sunday PM Worship | | | | Ghana Radio |
| Wed. Evening | 77 | | | |
| Contribution | \$ 3,575 | | | |

NURSERY

Communion Preparation

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Nov 22 | Leah Bryant |
| Nov 29 | Fran Calvert |
| Dec 6 | Fran Calvert |
| Dec 13 | Jill Curtis |

Ladies November Duties

Cards: Angela Naron
Food: Pam Beard
Pens & Cards: