

tired of my work, neither am I tired of this world; yet when Christ calls me home I shall go with the gladness of a schoolboy bounding away from school.”

—Lee Moses
Mammoth Spring, AR



Announcements

Those in need of prayers...

Rick & Sheila Beauchamp—his job hunt, mother, and co-workers; her ears
Lavonne McClish—her foot; sympathy on the death of her uncle in Tennessee. Funeral arrangements are pending.
Janice Parks—back, new job, mother, and family
Jerry Smith—grandfather’s health
Waynette Davis, Karla Dobbs, Sharon Harp—health problems
Rick Heimerger, Dub Mowery, Darrell Conley—health problems

Records you helped make...

Bible Class	11
Sunday AM Worship	11
Sunday PM Worship	11
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	11
Contribution	\$390.00
Contribution average (2009)	\$316.79



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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SCRIPTURAL “RED FLAGS” No. 4

In Galatians 6:7 we find another “red flag” of warning: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This is a statement of inexorable law that applies with equal force in both physical and spiritual matters. God set it in motion at the Creation (Gen. 1:11–12, 21, 24–25). A man will be sorely disappointed if he thinks he can raise a corn crop by sowing sun flower seed or produce beef cattle by pairing rabbits. In the context, Paul applies the principle to spiritual matters (v. 8). What may we learn from this warning?

1. This principle is one about which men are easily deceived. Thus the warning, “Be not deceived.” Few men dispute the physical application of the principle. The grave danger lies in deception about sowing and reaping in spiritual affairs.
2. God cannot be mocked. This means that men will ultimately be forced to submit to His will. This means that although men may appear to prevail against God, they can neither overthrow this law nor any of His other laws. In reality, men do not **break** any of God’s laws. When they **violate** His laws they actually **break themselves** on His law, which is not lessened in force or application at all. The only way to deal with God so as to please Him is to live in submission to His law. Any other approach to life is “living against the grain” (Acts 26:14).
3. We cannot be carnal, fleshly, and materialistic and hope to escape the necessary consequences of such life-emphasis. Such a life

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Worship 1:00 PM
Wednesday
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brings moral corruption and sometimes physical destruction here and eternal separation from God later on (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9–11). Many have become convinced that they can actually have what Balaam desired—to live in rebellion to God, but “die the death of the righteous” (Num. 23:10). It cannot be done. If one dies in sin he cannot go to Heaven (John 8:21). Regardless of how badly one wants it otherwise, one cannot die as a “sheep,” having lived as a “goat.”

4. Though men almost universally live by this principle in physical applications, multitudes foolishly deny its application in spiritual/religious matters. Just as the Book of Mormon does not produce Baptists, so Baptist doctrine does not produce Christians. Yet many sincerely hold that they can believe and obey false doctrine and still be accepted by the Lord as if they believed and obeyed His Truth. To thus believe is an attempt to mock God, because He has stated that this is not possible. It is only when we continue in the Word of Christ that we are genuine disciples; only the Truth (not error) makes us free (John 8:31–32). We will be eternally lost if we do not obey the Gospel (2 The. 1:8–9). God’s children remain in fellowship with Him only as they “walk in the light” (1 John 1:7). One does not trust what God has said if he thinks error is just as good as the Truth and that God will not really call men to account for what they believe and practice.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX



HOPE DEFERRED AND HEARTSICK

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life” (Pro. 13:12).

Though they live on the earth, Christians have their hope elsewhere. Children of God oftentimes delight to sing the sweet words, “This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue; the angels beckon me from heaven’s open door, And I can’t feel at home in this world anymore.” The Christian is not at home while dwelling upon earth, because his heart is where his treasures are being laid up (Matthew 6:20–21). But it is the fact that his hope lies somewhere else, deferred until after

death unless the Lord comes first, that sometimes makes him homesick—and heartsick.

Hope is essential to the Christian: Inspiration states, “We are saved by hope” (Rom. 8:24, KJV) or “In hope were we saved” (ASV). This does not mean that anyone is saved by hope alone—the hope a believer has in the promises of God causes him to strive toward the distant, yet nearer approaching, heavenly goal. Skeptics take a very cynical view of hope. Author Henry Miller said, “Hope is a bad thing. It means that you are not what you want to be. It means that part of you is dead, if not all of you. It means that you entertain illusions.” Such a view is based on a misunderstanding of what hope is. Hope is correctly defined as “desire plus expectation”; it is not simply “wishful thinking.” The *Oxford American College Dictionary* defines hope as “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen... grounds for believing that something good may happen.” The one who has hope has grounds, or a basis, for expecting that he will receive good things. When Miller said that hope “means you entertain illusions,” he was correctly expressing a view on wishful thinking, not hope. Journalist and critic, H.L. Mencken said, “Hope is a pathological belief in the occurrence of the impossible,” ignoring the fact that if there is a true basis to believe something, it cannot be impossible.

The Christian has hope—assurance based on fact—because of the resurrection of Christ. There is evidence recorded by credible witnesses (apostles) who gained nothing earthly by providing accounts of His resurrection except persecution, torture, and death. The evidence given is substantial and irrefutable; therefore, the Christian legitimately expects that there will be a resurrection, and desires and expects that he will take part in it. In the meanwhile, he is upon earth, wistfully anticipating the time when he will be with his Lord in Heaven. The only hope that exists is hope deferred; because “hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?” (Rom. 8:24). Yet why would one want to depart this world without hope (Jer. 18:12; Eph. 2:12; 1 The. 4:13)? “Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord” (Psa. 31:24). The Christian can enjoy the abundant life especially given him on earth; yet how much more will his joy be when that desired end comes, and it is truly a tree of eternal life? Brother Terry Hightower speaks of a missionary to Burma who wrote, “I am not