

Christianity Is Looking Up

"Looking up, they saw the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large" (Mark 16:4). Three women wondered who would roll away the stone. They had their minds on completing the burial process of the Lord. But God had other plans. Better plans! Jesus rose from the dead! God moved the stone, not so our Lord could get out, but that they might enter to find Him raised.

When we look up as those three wonderful women did, we can see what God wants us to see. When we look up, we take our minds away from what we consider to be failures and catastrophes. (The disciples had their minds on a disappointing death instead of a remarkable resurrection.) We are called to look up to see Christ seated at the right hand of God, victorious (Colossians 3:1). When we look up, *we set our minds on things above, not on earth* (Colossians 3:2). Christianity is looking up if we'll keep our hearts and minds "looking up."

- Rick Laing,
Highland Village Church of Christ, Austin, TX
(via *Bulletin Digest*) -

The Source of My Joy

In the MIDST OF EVERYTHING: I'm a Christian, my sins are forgiven, and I am on my way home to heaven (Hebrews 11:13-16)!! It's the source of my JOY!! (Philippians 2:2; 4:4; (1 Thessalonians 5:16).

- Richard Stevens, III, Dallas, TX (*Bulletin Digest*) -

God's promises are life preservers that keep the soul
from sinking in the sea of trouble.

Standing On the Promises of God

Nearing his death, the apostle Peter reminded his Gentile audience they had been given "exceeding great and precious promises."

He said they received these promises so they could "be partakers of the divine nature ..." (2 Peter 1:4).

As with the Gentiles, we have been given these same precious promises so that we might also be partakers of the divine nature.

We depend on the promises of God to direct our transformation from a carnal being into a spiritual one. We do our part by letting God's truth impress, guide, direct, judge and adjust our motivations, thoughts and actions. Then God will handle the rest.

How is it possible for us to overcome Satan? God promised if we submit to Him and resist the devil, the devil will flee from us. (James 4:7).

In a world that measures success by what one attains, how can we avoid the pitfalls of covetousness, greed and pride? God promises if we seek His kingdom and His righteousness first, He will supply what we need to live. (Matthew 6:33).

Confronted by conflicting advice and council, how can we gain wisdom to conduct ourselves? God promises His "testimony" can make the simple into wise (Psalm 19:7). He promises our trusting prayer for wisdom will be granted. (James 1:5).

Peter wrote that God gives us "all things that pertain to life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3). We truly stand on the Promises of God.

- Brian Beck, *The Seeker*,
Avenue N Church of Christ, Rosenberg, TX -

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. only and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. The Covid-19 restrictions apply (masks & distancing).

MEALS FOR THE WAITE FAMILY: Schedule is for Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; Sign-up sheet on the desk in the foyer.

SYMPATHY: To Mike Martin at the passing of his brother-in-law, Dan McGeehan. God bless and comfort this family.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

SICK & SHUT-IN: THE MEADOWS AT COVINGTON: Sandy Spencer, 100 Covington Drive, Room 301, East Palestine, OH 44413. **CITY HOSPITAL:** Fred Larrimore. **TRINITY, Steubenville:** Alex Harless. **WPMC, Pittsburgh:** Mary Johnson (sister of Lois Hissom). **BEAVER MEDICAL:** Jim Johnson (brother-in-law of Lois Hissom & husband of Mary Johnson). **AT HOME:** Randy Waite, Shirley Beagle, Lois Hissom, Peggy Linger, Pat Allison, Randy Beagle, Charlie & Barb Delong, David McCoy, Jim Hadley, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Cam Adamson, Rick Beck, John McClung, Josh Morrison. **FOX:** Doris Dunham. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **IN TENNESSEE:** Steve Higginbotham. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

Did You Think To Pray?

Consider the following truth: "Jesus went more readily to the cross of Calvary than we do to the throne of grace in prayer." But why is that so? Is it because of a lack of faith? A spirit of independence? Carelessness? Yes, yes, yes.

Friends, when I meditate upon that opening statement, I am put to shame. What about you? Well, if you're like me, you have a choice to make. Will you go your own way and act as though you were never confronted by this truth, or will you decide to do better? If my Lord could willingly face the horrors of the cross, then surely I can with more consistency approach the gracious throne of God with my petitions and intercessions. What about you? (Read Colossians 4:1-2).

- Steve Higginbotham, Knoxville, TN -
(via *Glad tidings of Good Things, House to House*)

A Blessing In Prayer

When our songs are glad
with the joy of life,
When our hearts are sad
with its ills and strife,
When the powers of sin
would the soul ensnare,
There is always a blessing,
a blessing in prayer.

- Eliza E. Hewitt (1887) -

