

(Others Who Have No Hope, continued from page one)

They may not even be aware of what way they have in mind. They just want a preacher around. His presence seems to have some sort of calming effect on them (sometimes).

The other people I've been with are just as sad and feel their loss just as much as the first group. Depending on the circumstances, they may even be as confused as the people in the first group. Through tears they express words that convey their grief to the preacher and to one another.

While, they also appreciate a preacher being with them, their actions and words convey a quiet confidence that the other group does not have. Their confidence is not dependent upon the presence of a preacher. Their confidence is in God and His promises.

It is my prayer that all of us could be a part of this second group of people. It is also my prayer that each of us will live our lives in such a way that those who are left behind can have that quiet confidence that is needed so much during very trying times.

- Jim Faughn serves as an elder and preacher for the Central church of Christ in Paducah KY.



The Worker

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Others Who Have No Hope

Please read the following words found in the English Standard Version of 1 Thessalonians 4:13 very carefully:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others who do not have hope.

I believe that most of us readily understand that the "sleep" being referred to here is the "sleep" of death. I believe it is also fairly obvious that the use of the word "brothers" means that these words are addressed to Christians.

- Does this verse teach us that Christians are not to grieve (mourn, sorrow, etc.) at all when a loved one passes from this life?
- Are Christians supposed to just act as though nothing had ever happened and go on with their lives?
- Does a Christian's confidence in an eternal home make him or her immune to feelings of loss?

If you did, in fact, read that verse carefully, you should realize that the answer to those questions is, "NO." The sorrow of a Christian is not to be "...as others who have no hope." (In reality, it did not take a very careful reading to notice that, did it?)

More often than I really care to remember, I've been in more homes, hospital rooms, nursing home rooms, etc. when death has taken a loved one from family members and friends. Sometimes death has occurred after a long and serious illness. Sometimes the death is sudden and unexpected. In all reality, no two deaths and no two families are ever exactly the same.

However, I've noticed that many of the situations in which I've found myself can broadly fit into one of two categories. Both of these categories are linked to the fact that I'm a preacher (and an elder) and that I often get called on during trying times like this.

I've been in situations when people just want a preacher around. Any "brand" will do. Often, these people are confused. In fact, "panic" might not be too strong a word. These people want somebody --- anybody --- that has some sort of religious credentials to calm them and assure them in some way.

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Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Great and Precious Promises" 2 Peter 1:2-4

Sunday Evening: "The Greatest in God's Kingdom" Matthew 18:1-4

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
Opening Prayer John Keaton
Scripture Rick Martin
Sermon Irvin Williams
Lord's Supper
Message Joe Sweeney
Attendant Ryan Irwin
Attendant Nathaniel Welch
Closing Prayer Jerry Casey

PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale
Bible Reading Michael Hawkins
Selection 25
Prayer Leon Stocksdale
Sermon Irvin Williams
Closing Prayer Brandon Slotman
If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511

AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Jr
Lord's Supper Doug McArthur
Offering Hank Tincher
Usher Jerry Montgomery
Count Offering Art Patrick
Assist Count Harold Tincher

Racism

Eric Welch

People have often accused the Bible of racism, the belief that one's race is superior to another. This accusation comes from people, even professed Christians, who have grossly twisted the Scriptures to justify and promote it. I can remember in high school a classmate arguing with me that the mark of Cain was the darkening of the pigment in Cain's skin. He was saying that dark-skinned people have the mark of Cain and stood condemned. Even if this were true (which it is not), all of Cain's descendants were destroyed in the great Flood. Others have said that the descendants of Ham, who have dark skin, were destined to serve the rest of humanity. Again, this interpretation is foolish, reckless and void of any reasoning. The curse did not fall upon Ham but upon his son Canaan and his descendants, who became a thorn to Israel's side centuries later. The Canaanites became an abominable people, not because of the melanin in their skin but because of the darkness in their hearts. These peoples' abomination cannot be described here without making one sick to the stomach. Those who accuse the Bible of racism and those who use the Bible to justify and promote racism are no children of God and have no love for God (1 John 4:7-21).

Racism is not a Biblical concept at all? From beginning to end, the Bible says our Creator describes humanity as divided among "tongues, families, nations and lands" (Genesis 10:5, 20, 31) and "all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" (Rev 7:9). Absolutely nothing is said of race.

My Christian brothers and sisters who come in all the different shades of brown are closer to me than many of my own physical blood relatives. Nothing can be closer than kinship through the blood of Christ. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Paul did not even consider race as a separate category here.

Racism has no place in the church nor in the heart of a Christian. Wherever we find it, let us cut it out with the Sword of the Spirit and cast it far away (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12).

Are We Willing to Listen?

Tommy Bolt, winner of the 1958 US Open, tells the story of an incident he had during one of his golf tournaments. Bolt arrived at the golf course for the tournament and was approached by a youngster, "Mr. Bolt, do you need a caddy, sir?" Bolt went to the caddy master and asked about the youngster. The man said, "He's a real good caddy, knows the course, the greens, and the rules of the game. But he talks a lot."

So Bolt went back to the youngster and said, "You can caddy for me on one condition: Don't say a word." The young man accepted and carried Bolt's bag. The first three rounds went well, and Bolt was in contention in the fourth round, when an errant tee shot landed in the rough. The ball was sitting down in a bad patch of turf, with a difficult shot to the green which was well guarded by water on the right.

Bolt asked his caddy, "You think a five iron will do the trick?" The kid shook his head no, but never said a word.

"What, you want me to hit a six iron?" Again, the kid shook his head no, but did not speak. Bolt grabbed a six iron and lashed the ball out of the rough and landed on the green, rolling to within three feet of the hole.

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As they walked to the green, Bolt said, "Aren't you going to say something now, after seeing a shot like that?" His caddy then replied, "Mr. Bolt, that wasn't your ball."

Many of us go through life like that. We don't want to hear what anyone else has to say. In fact, we don't even want to hear what God has to say. And when we become intent on doing things our way without listening to the voices of wisdom around us, we are headed for disaster.

Solomon advised us to, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

He also encouraged us to: "Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge; For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you." (Proverbs 22:17-18)

If you're inclined to tell others, "I don't want to hear anything that you have to say", you may want to reconsider. The time may come when you wish you had listened.

- Alan Smith minister for the Cruciform church of Christ in Spring Lake, North Carolina

Hamburg Pike Happenings

- Attention Teens: The E-Town church of Christ will host a Youth Rally on Friday August 26th and Saturday August 27th. Please let Michael Hawkins know if you plan to attend.
- The ladies' Bible class will meet Saturday morning, August 27th, at 10:00 A.M.