

THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

July 31, 2022

An Answer For The Hope **1 Peter 3:15-16** **(Zeke Flores)**

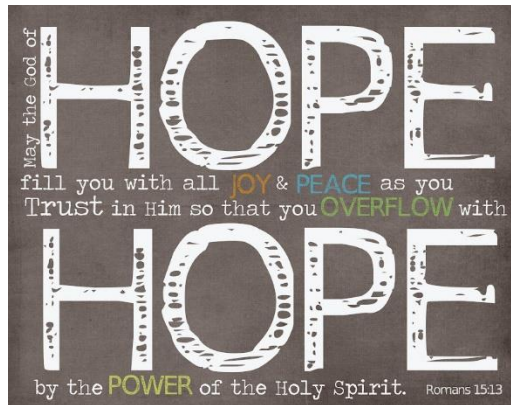
In the midst of a passage about enduring persecution in a godly manner, Peter makes this statement: “..sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

The early disciples of Christ endured unspeakable persecution for the sake of righteousness, but still, they had hope, and apparently, it was obvious to those around them. Peter admonished them to be able to explain to others the reason for their hope in a respectful way. Nearly 2,000 years later, the Holy Spirits’ words still ring clearly

to the Christian of today. Let’s notice some things about this passage and use them to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

First, we should realize that, as believers, we may be asked to explain what we believe and why we believe it. We start by sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts. This means that He will rule us completely as Master, and His will should be our desire. If Christ is Lord and Master, then we should have no trouble believing His word and obeying it to the best of our ability.

This leads to our being ready or prepared to answer questions or accusations for our belief in Christ. This implies diligently studying God's word so that we can have well-thought-out, understandable, and accurate replies to the things people want to know. Armed with a solid understanding of the truth, we should have no cause to be ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15).



Notice that Peter says we should be ready to explain the hope that is in us. He does not tell us to explain acapella singing in worship, our stand on pre-millennialism, or handling the money in the church treasury. These things are important, and we should be able to explain what we believe on these subjects, but they are not where our hope lies. The Christian's hope lies in the fact that Jesus loved us enough to offer Himself as a sacrifice to God, then defeated death by His glorious resurrection from the dead, thereby giving us a confident, reassuring expectation that we, too, will one day rise from our graves to live a never-ending life with Him in the very presence of God!

We share this hope, not by grabbing folks by the collar and yelling "Sinner!" in their faces, but rather with a gentle, well-reasoned answer from the Scriptures.

Finally, we put what we believe into practice keeping "a good conscience" (1 Peter 3:16) so that others will see that we live like we actually believe what we say we believe! This means finding real, everyday ways to apply the principles we find in God's word so that when we are belittled for what we believe, they will see a person committed to Christ, no matter what the cost. How ready are you to give an answer for your hope?



GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU; AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE." (MATTHEW 28:19-20)

Atonement (Selected)

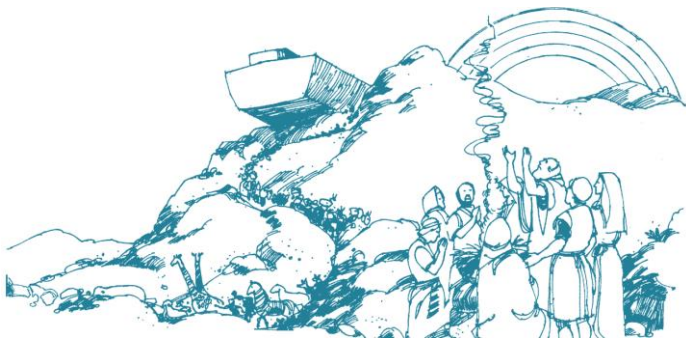
God is highly dangerous. We are sinful and He is holy. Sin can no more exist in the presence of God than darkness can exist in the presence of light. To stand before Him as we are is to invite destruction. If God were to keep a record of our sins, we could not stand in His presence.

In a cemetery not far from New York City is a headstone engraved with a single word: *Forgiven*. The message is simple, unembellished. There is no date of birth, date of death, or epitaph. There is only a name and the solitary word '*forgiven*.' But that is the greatest word that can be applied to any man or woman or written on any gravestone.

Evidence Of The Flood (Tertullian)

“There was a time when the whole globe underwent change because it was overrun by all waters. To this day, marine shells and tritons’ horns lay as foreign objects on the mountains – eager to prove to Plato that even the heights have been undulated. Eventually, by ebbing out, the globe again underwent a change of form.”
(Written c. 200 A.D.)

Editor’s note: Tertullian was a prolific early Christian author from Carthage in the Roman province of Africa.

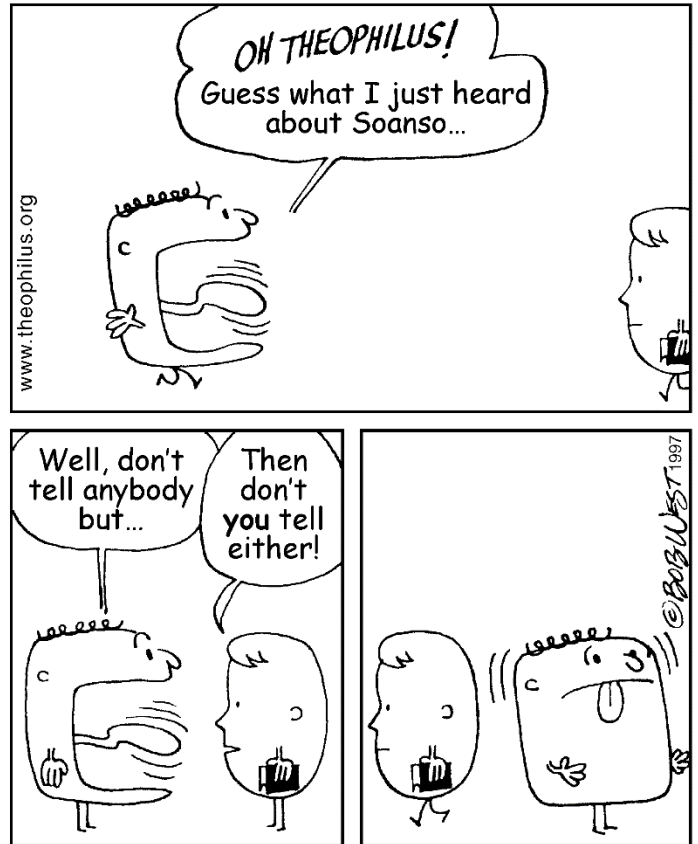


Always Stand Firm, Never Stand Still (Jason T. Carter)

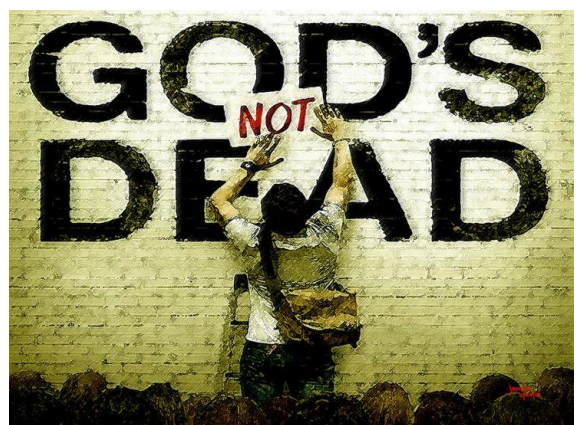
The faith of the Christian is not just a “good feeling” based purely on emotions but is founded upon and rooted in the faith, which is revealed in the New Testament. It is not our faith but the faith for which we are to earnestly contend (Jude 3). We are to be established in the faith (Colossians 2:6-7). We should always stand firm in the faith and never be moved from it.

THEOPHILUS

Well, Shut My Mouth!



While we should always stand firm in the faith, we should never stand still. A Christian’s faith will motivate him to work for the Lord (James 2:24,26). If we are not working in His kingdom, we do not have a living faith. Jesus told His followers, “Go into all the world...” (Mark 16:15). The apostle Paul encouraged those in Thessalonica to “abound more and more” and said they “ought to walk and to please God” (I Thessalonians 4:1). If we are to please the Father, we cannot stand still, but we must “walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (Ephesians 4:1).



Home (Charles M. Crowe)

Home – a world of strife shut out; a world of love shut in.

Home – a place where the small are great, and the great are small.

Home – the father's kingdom, the mother's world, and the children's paradise.

Home – where we grumble the most and are treated the best.

Home – the center of our affection, round which our heart's best wishes twine.

Home – the place where our stomachs get three square meals a day and our hearts a thousand.

- A house is built by human hands, but a home is built by human hearts.
- Woe to the house when the hen crows louder than the rooster.
- Children need models, not critics.



If you want to be DISTRESSED

Look within

If you want to be DEFEATED

Look back

If you want to be DISTRACTED

Look around

If you want to be DISMAYED

Look before

If you want to be DELIVERED

Look up

If you want to be DELIGHTED

Look to Jesus

Shoes divide men into three classes. Some wear their father's shoes, they make no declaration of their own. Some are unthinkingly shod by the crowd. The strong man is his own cobbler, he insists on making his own choices. *(S. D. Gordon)*

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri

☞ The saints in Nicaragua

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