



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

Jesus Is a Better Hope

Chuck Northrop

Every person has struggles within life. No individual is exempt — not the child or the aged, not the rich or the poor, and not the uneducated or the educated. Struggles are not even limited to gender or nationality. Woefully, many struggles stem back to foolish actions of the past. Most people can look back on life and see they are reaping what they have sown. Because of struggles, people want and need hope for the future. What is your hope?

If hope is limited to this life, then hope is shallow. In this material and physical realm, life is full of sorrows and tears. Pain and death are always around us and an ever-present threat against us. God provides a better hope through Jesus. Why and how is Jesus a better hope?

Jesus Is the Savior of Life. A savior is a deliverer, and Jesus is able and willing to deliver us from our sins and the guilt associated with sin. One reason He is able to do this is because He is perfect and without sin. That does not mean He was not tempted. He “was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knew temptations, trials, and frustrations. Kings always have rebellious subjects. One of David’s rebellious subjects was his own son, Absalom. The King of kings had Jewish rebels. The poor have their various struggles. John the baptizer wore camel hair and lived on locusts and honey. Jesus had “not where to lay His head” (Matthew 8:20). People have temptations in

life. Adam and Eve were tempted in the garden. Jesus was tempted (Matthew 4) with “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). Teachers have students who will not listen. Jeremiah prophesied to the kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem as well as the nations around the southern kingdom, but they did not listen. Jesus taught but even His own disciples did not listen and understand at times. Leaders and those in authority always have those who oppose them. Paul had some in Corinth who were obstinate and questioned his authority. Jesus had Judas Iscariot. Jesus understands our struggles and provides hope because He “is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world” as the woman in Samaria declared (John 4:42).

Jesus Is the Source of Life. He is the source of life because He is the creator. John declared, “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). He created the world including the physical and material part of man. In addition, He created the spiritual part of man. Because man is both physical and spiritual, he is unique. From a scientific and physical standpoint, man is a mammal. However, man is more than just *flesh and blood*. Unlike the animal world, there is an eternal part of man. Jesus Christ, the Lord, provides man with the hope of a resurrected life — either the resurrection of life or the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29). The choice is ours. To Martha Jesus stated, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25-26). What a good question for each person to contemplate and consider.

Jesus Is the Sustainer of Life. Not only is He the creator, He sustains His creation. Jesus “made the worlds” and He upholds “all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:2-3). The same Word which created is the Word which sustains. Why would He preserve the world when the majority of humanity lives in rebellion to Him? Peter provided the answer. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). As a Sustainer, Jesus provides support, endurance, and strength. In fact, He provides all the necessities of life. For all mankind, the Father “maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:45). Since Jesus created “all things” which would include the sun and the rain, then He along with the Father provides the hope which comes each day with the rising sun and with the needful moisture for the crops.

Jesus Is the Substance of Life. Without substance, life would be empty. With substance, life has purpose and hope. When Jesus is man’s substance, then there is reason for living and for dying. The things of this world provide reasons for living, but they are limited only to this world. It is sobering to consider: “For we brought nothing into *this*

world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:7). Contemplating this thought, it is no wonder why Jesus warned, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). A living hope is not in “the things which are seen” but is in “the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Jesus Is the Solace of Life. To provide solace is to provide comfort or to console. It is the alleviation of grief and anxiety. There is no better comfort than hope, and there is no better hope than Christ. Jesus is the joy during times of trouble. Even in times of great discouragement, Christians can “Rejoice in the Lord alway” (Philippians 4:4). Some in the church at Philippi could remember Paul and Silas in stocks in the inner prison praying and singing at midnight (Acts 16:24-25). They saw firsthand joy in times of difficulties. Without hope, such solace could never come to reality. Without the hope Jesus provides, there is no rest from those who trouble us, but with His hope there is rest “when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels” (2 Thessalonians 1:7).

What is your hope? Where is it found? To whom do you turn in times of need? Because of all that Jesus can do, He can provide you with a Better Hope!



Points to Ponder from the Proverbs:

“Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed:
but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded” (Proverbs 13:13).

“A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly:
and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24).

“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law,
even his prayer *shall be* abomination” (Proverbs 28:9).

Interesting Quote from the forefathers of the United States:

“In regard to this great Book, I have only to say it.” – Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States; stated in acknowledgment of a elegant Bible presented to him and recorded in the Washington Chronicle, September 5, 1864 (Page 285; S.A. Northrop)

the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated through this Book. But for this Book we could not know right from wrong. All those things desirable for man are contained in

Observations and Concerns

October 12, 2022

Welcome Visitors! It is our Honor to Honor YOU as our welcomed guests.

“Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens” (Lamentations 3:41).

Expression of Gratitude: to those who work hard preparing for potlucks and cleaning up afterwards. Thank You!

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** began chemo and radiation for his cancer last week. They are going well thus far.
- ▶ **Mike Roberts**, preacher in Porter, has been having several health issues.

Azalea Gospel Meeting, October 16-19, Jamie Beller, Theme: “**But Grow...**”

Lee & Walnut Gospel Meeting, October 23-26, BJ Clarke, Theme: “**The Power of One.**”

Reminder: If you have news for the Oologah Observer, please give it to Chelley or Chuck before Tuesday morning each week.

The email address for **The Oologah Observer** is OologahObserver@gmail.com. If you would like to receive it via email, please send an email request to this address.

Extended Prayer List: **Dan & Marcella Dennis** – ongoing health issues; **Bill Dilks** – cancer; **Sammy Gray** – continual health concerns; **Dale & Betty Jackson** – prolonged health issues; **Chuck Northrop** – blood disorder; **Vance & Darla Smith** – extended health problems; **Pat Taylor** – ongoing health issues; **Sam Orr** – extended health concerns.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, Oct. 12	Sunday, Oct. 16 AM	Sunday, Oct. 16 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM	Chris Nelson	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
Worship 10:30 AM	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
Worship 5:00 PM			
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Russ Earl
Website: oologahcofc.org	Paul Praschnik	Paul Praschnik	Paul Praschnik
	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl	Chuck Northrop
	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen