

THE MISSION TRAIL
Guthrie, Oklahoma

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. . . Greetings once again to all the saints and my friends who are in tune with The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma. I am glad to be back with you once again and hope that each one of you are well and happy in the service of the Lord.

Now for our message, let us again read the text which we gave on last week's broadcast. "AND NOW ABIDETH FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, THESE THREE;"

As I said before, I want to use this text for the three broadcasts. So we now come to the second virtue mentioned in this scripture which is hope. This is the subject for our discussion at this time.

Hope is a wonderful thing and without it, life would have very little meaning. I think that most of us realize what it is to have hope. Again let me refer to Webster's dictionary for this definition: Hope: desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment; someone or something on which hopes are centered.

So we see then that hope is that which we look forward to at some later time. In our lesson on faith last week, we found that it is imperative for each one to have faith to come to God. Let me use this one verse in Ephesians two and verse eight to quickly summarize the importance of faith again. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."

From this point on, hope begins to spring up in one's life, and it gives one great comfort and anticipation as they look forward to the future! Now let us look at the condition one is in who has no hope. In Ephesians, chapter two and verse 12, we read: "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

To me this is one of the most tragic pictures of life. When hope is gone from one's life, it leaves a great vacancy which soon becomes filled with despair and darkness.

Let me illustrate it this way. Many years ago when I first visited Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, we joined a group of visitors escorted by our guide, and walked into the mouth of this great cave, from where we proceeded slowly down, down, the narrow path into the heart of the earth. Soon the last glimmer of daylight faded from our view as the mouth of the caverns were left far behind. With the artificial lighting we marveled at the great handiwork of God. At one point where the depth was several hundred feet below the surface of the earth, we came to a large excavation provided with seating facilities. We were informed that the lights were going to be turned off for a short period of time and instructed not to strike any matches or turn on any flashlights, and also to observe complete silence.

As we sat there for those few seconds in utter darkness it left a lasting impression which I have never forgotten! To me it typically represents a life without God and without hope in the world!

