

## OPENING HYMN #36

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Brother Kevin Thacker is scheduled to preach here on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, all are welcome.
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## SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-41

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## WORSHIP HYMN #53

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

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## OFFERING

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor 9:7

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## WORSHIP HYMN #175

Standing on the Promises

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## MESSAGE

CHRIST IS ALL

ISAIAH 25:1-4

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## CLOSING HYMN #222

There Is a Fountain

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## THINGS TO PONDER

### A Good hope

It is only when our Lord in grace and mercy takes away our imaginary strength that we truly look to Him and trust Him. This we do not learn in creeds and confessions of faith. This we are taught by Him in personal relationship in the experience of grace. I only find hope in Him when there is no hope anywhere else. It is easy to learn correct doctrine, but faith, hope, comfort, rest in Christ is a living experience. Justification, redemption, atonement, sanctification and glorification are not only doctrinal truths believed in the heart, they are truths experienced in the heart in regeneration. Our Lord is our life, and all that is in Him is ours. There is no hope in what I know, my only hope is in Him and what He has done. May God in mercy shut us up to Christ alone!

**-Tommy Robbins (1948-2011)**

*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*  
**1Cor 15:19**

## The Glorious Hope!

*“The hope which is laid up for you in Heaven.” Colossians 1:5*

*Hope* only has reference to the *future* — it has nothing to do with the past and the present. *Faith* looks backward as well as forward — but hope fixes its glance exclusively upon things to come. And the objects with which it deals are “good things to come,” or things which are *supposed* to possess such a character.

We say *supposed*, for many objects for which men have hoped, and which they have anxiously longed for, have turned out, when possessed, to be far less valuable and attractive than they once appeared to be. *Distance*, in innumerable instances, lends *enchantment* to the view.

It is so frequently with natural objects; much of the fascination with which they seem to be invested when *remotely viewed*, disappear when they are more closely examined. “To all those who are conversant,” it has been strikingly observed, “in the scenery of external nature, it is evident that an object to be seen to the greatest advantage, must be placed at a certain distance from the eye of the observer. The *poor man’s hut*, though all within is raggedness and disorder, and all around it is full of the most disgusting spectacles — yet, if seen at a sufficient distance, may appear to be an enchanting cottage. The *field* where the thistle grows, and the face of which is deformed by the wild exuberance of pernicious weeds — may delight the eye of a distant spectator by the loveliness of its verdure. That *lake* whose waters are corrupted, and whose banks poison the air by their marshy exhalations — may charm the eye of an enthusiast who views it from an adjoining eminence, and dwells with rapture on the quietness of its surface and on the beauty of its outline, its sweet border fringed with the mirthful coloring of nature, and on which Spring lavishes its finest ornaments.

Yet all is the effect of *distance* — it softens the harsh and disgusting features of every object. What is detestable and ordinary — it can dress in the most romantic attractions. Distance can transform the country hamlet into a paradise of beauty, in spite of the abominations that are at every door, and the angry brawlings of the men and women who occupy it! You see the smoke rising in fantastic wreaths through the pure air, and the village spire peeping from among the thick verdure of the trees which embosom it. The *imagination* of our sentimentalist swells with pleasure, and completes the harmony of the picture.”

Now it is cheering to know that to the Christian’s hope, such reflections are altogether inapplicable. Although its object is distant, in a “land that is very far off,” yet what is *enchanting in the distance* will not lose its enchantment when its borders are reached, and its blessedness is actually realized.  
*continued on back...*

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The feelings of the saints in Heaven will, doubtless, be very similar to those of the Eastern Queen on her visit to the most magnificent of Israel's monarchs. Accustomed as she was, to the most pompous and imposing scenes — yet what she then saw, cast all the splendor with which she had been previously familiar, into the shadows; and with befitting candor she acknowledged that the scepticism with which she had listened to the accounts which had been brought to her, was not only removed — but that the descriptions had fallen far short of the reality, “When the queen of Sheba realized how very wise Solomon was, and when she saw the palace he had built, she was *overwhelmed*. She was also amazed at the food on his tables, the organization of his officials and their splendid clothing, the cup-bearers, and the burnt offerings Solomon made at the Temple of the Lord. She exclaimed to the king: Everything I heard in my country about your achievements and wisdom is true! I didn't believe what was said until I arrived here and saw it with my own eyes! In fact, I had not heard the *half* of it! Your wisdom and prosperity are far beyond what I was told!” 1 Kings 10:4-7

An ancient emperor, when he had attained certain conquests which had been for years the summit of his ambition, might cry out, “*Is this all?*” But never will the Christian conqueror, after having been overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of His testimony, when admitted into the everlasting kingdom to receive that recompense of reward, in prospect of which he bore the toils of combat and the labor of the way — never will he be tempted to join in such an exclamation. As God more than fulfills the wishes of His people here, doing for them exceeding abundantly above all they ask or think — so will he immeasurably and inconceivably transcend their loftiest expectations hereafter!

*-John MacDuff 1818-1895*

### **What is Your Hope?**

Lay the foundation of your hope in Jesus Christ. Begin with Christ and end with Christ. As Christ Jesus becomes more to you, self will grow less and less. If your faith puffs you up – it is not the faith of Christ. God will help us when we are weak. He will bless us as long as we confess our dependence upon His blessing. He will fill us when we are empty. He will feed us when we are hungry. He will be our all when we are nothing. He will forgive us when we are guilty. But the moment we begin to boast in ourselves and feel sufficient, we will be left to learn, in no uncertain terms that we are naked, poor, blind, and miserable. Terrible will be the day when proud rebels discover, too late, the dust and ashes of human merit.

*-Pastor Henry Mahan*

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Sunday 9:30 AM Bible Class lesson

10:30 AM Morning Worship Service

Wednesday 6:30 PM Mid-week Worship Service

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**Sunday February 24, 2019**

**“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”**

*Rev 22:17*



**“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” 1Cor 8:6**