

# Hope Versus Despair

By Mike Riley

According to the dictionary, despair is a loss of hope, which brings about a state of hopelessness. A loss of hope brings about discouragement. Discouragement brings about a loss of courage, hope, and ambition because of obstacles, frustrations and the problems of life.

What can we do to overcome despair in our lives? We can look for hope; but not just any hope. We look for the kind of hope that is based on “the light” at the end of what can sometimes be a very long and dark tunnel (John 8:12; John 9:5; cf. John 1:1-5; John 3:14-21).

The Christian hope is anchored in Jesus, “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). Through His perfect sacrifice on the cross of Calvary and God’s immutable oath that He would honor His promise to Abraham that through him, all nations of the earth would be spiritually blessed (Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 3:19-26; Gal. 3:6-9), our hope is made steadfast and secure (Hebrews 6:10-20).

As William Bradbury so eloquently wrote:

***“My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name,  
His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.”***

Brethren and friends, no matter what sort of adversity or challenge that we might face in life, when we fix our eyes upon Jesus and His sacrifice (Hebrews 12:2 NASB), our hope for eternal life is solid and secure (Romans 5).

Hallelujah to God, who sent His perfect Lamb to redeem us from our sins (Romans 5:1-11; Hebrews 9), forever securing our place in eternity with Him (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Revelation 21:1-7).



# STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

1/2/22

# Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshipping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Elders:

Todd Chapman  
Paul Simpson

## Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris  
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

## Preacher:

Don Delukie

# Those to Serve

## Today

**Announcements-** Travis Rodgers **Lord's Table-** Wayne Fowler  
**Opening prayer-** Paul Simpson **Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller

## January 2nd

**Announcements-** Charles Fricke **Lord's Table-** Paul Simpson  
**Opening prayer-** Lyle Russell **Closing Prayer-** David Reppond

- Communion will utilize self-contained, sealed cups available in the foyer. **Please pick one up upon arrival.**
- Giving is available at a central collection container in the foyer or online at [www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com).

# Announcements

—**Question & Answer Series:** The first Sunday evening of February Don will be continuing the Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.



# Please Pray For:

Buddy & Carlon Hollis, Billy Granger, Gerald Kilpatrick, Jerry Cain, David Reppond, Melannie White, Brenda Purdy, Carolyn Jones, Linda Garris, Ed Haltom, Alaine Sawyer Cardinal, Sharon Sawyer Morris, David Davis.

**Bereaved:** Families of Carlton Silmon, Kaleb Hamby.

# Continue to Pray For:

Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Renita Thomas, Elizabeth Hollis, Cyndi Powell, Heath Ray, Terrance Dawson, Ann Bolden, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr, Lewis Bedele, Cindy Jenny, Gay Black, Adam White.

# Weekly Bible Reading Plan

—A 2022 Daily Bible Reading guide is available in the lobby. Pick one up today.



## January Birthdays

- 1 - John Chisley
- 6 - Carolyn Jones
- 15 - Tommy Franklin
- 21 - Gary Harris
- 22 - Gracie Aaron
- 25 - Kenny Kimball
- 26 - Arthur Binford
- 30 - Wes Chapman

## January Anniversaries

- 6 - Debbie and Rick Cook
- 7 - Charles and Brenda Fricke

WELCOME  
2022

