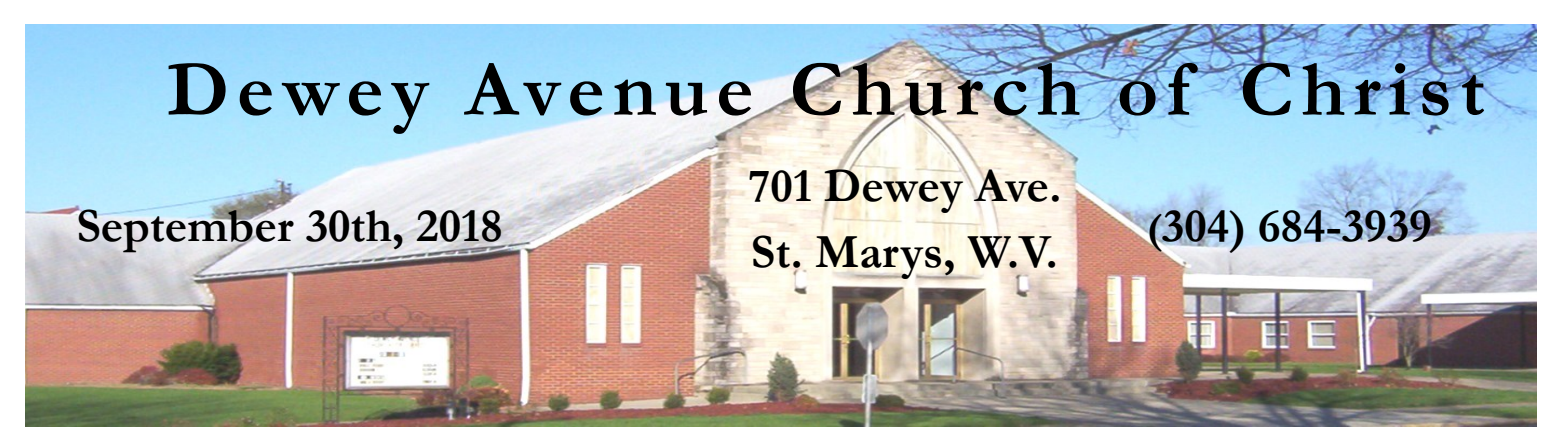


***** If anyone has a topic you would like for Dale to present a lesson on, you can write it down and please sign your name, in case Dale has any questions and place it in the box on the table in the back of the auditorium.**

*Any updates or information for the bulletin please contact Terri Parks @ 304-684-1141, email at terrinazelrod@hotmail.com or drop off in box by office door.

The Church is offering valet parking to anyone struggling with the commute from the parking lot to the building. If you need help, please let one of our elders or deacons know.

Dewey Ave.
church of Christ
701 Dewey Ave.
St. Marys W.V. 26710



Elders:

- Dave Lancaster
(304) 684-3265
- Dave Parks
(304) 299-1283
- Hal Powell
(304) 684-3923
- Melvin Truax
(304) 684-7921
- Lew Wilson
(304) 684-3992

Minister:

- Dale Parsley
(740) 485-1607

Deacons:

- Richard Lee Davis
(304) 299-5400
- Joe Elrod
(304) 659-3205
- Brian Mercer
(304) 684-9587
- Darren Parks
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- Clay Perkins
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- Glenn Stewart
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A Steadfast Hope

By Dale Parsley

In his book, "Heaven," author Randy Alcorn writes,

"Australian aborigines pictured heaven as a distant island beyond the western horizon. The early Finns thought heaven was a distant island in the faraway East. Mexicans, Peruvians, and Polynesians believed they went to the sun or the moon after death. Native Americans believed that in the afterlife their spirits would hunt the spirits of buffalo. The Gilgamesh Epic, an ancient Babylonian legend, refers to a resting place of heroes and hints at a tree of life. In the pyramids of Egypt, the embalmed bodies had maps placed beside them as guides to the future world. The Romans believed that the righteous would picnic in the Elysian fields while their horses grazed nearby...Although these descriptions of the afterlife differ, the unifying testimony of the human heart throughout history is belief in life after death. Anthropological evidence suggests that every culture has a God-given, innate sense of the eternal – that this world is not all there is." (Larson 164)

Even though man has a God-designed longing for a life to come, only "the Christian can hope to cope with life. And only the Christian can regard death with serenity and equanimity." (Barclay 73)

In the New Testament, "hope" "is always the expectation of something good. It is also something we must wait for." (Richards 344) It is a confident expectation or solid assurance (Mounce 340). It "is not simply a trembling, hesitant hope that perhaps the promises of God may be true. It is the confident expectation that they cannot be anything else than true." (Barclay 76) The Christians at Thessalonica not only had hope, but a "steadfast hope" because of Jesus' resurrection from dead (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 4:13,17).

This hope for life eternal (Titus 1:2-3) is "steadfast," or, an endurance with "the spirit which bears things not simply with resignation, but with blazing hope. It is the spirit which bears things because it knows that these things are leading to a goal of glory." (Rogers 471)

When Alexander the Great was setting out on his campaigns he divided all his possessions among his friends. Someone said, 'But you are keeping nothing for yourself.' 'O yes, I am,' he said. 'I have kept my hopes.'" (Barclay 218) Likewise, when our country is divided politically with bitterness and hatred growing worse, for a Christian, there is always hope. When trials, unfortunate events or natural disasters occur, there is still hope. When the church is mistreated or persecuted, there is hope. When wolves come in sheep's clothing to draw away some of the flock after themselves (Act 20:28-29), for the faithful, there is hope. When our health fails and life is soon to end, there is hope.

As G.K. Chesterton once put it, "[t]here is one thing which gives radiance to everything. It is the idea of something around the corner." (Zuck 199) For the Christian, it is eternal life.

REFERENCES: continued next page...

Upcoming Events

This Morning— Annual collection for Potter Children's Home.

Tonight is our birthday and anniversary celebration for the month of September. Everyone is invited and welcome to come!

Oct 26— Fall-o-ween party at Perkins residence at 6pm

References from Article on Front Page

Barclay, W. (1976) New Testament Words, Westminster Press

Barclay, W. (1960) The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, Westminster Press

Larson, C. B., & Ten Elshof, P. (2008). 1001 illustrations that connect (164). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Mounce, W.D. (2006) Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Zondervan Publishing

Rogers Jr, C. & Rogers III C. (1998) New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament, Zondervan Publishing.

Gospel Meetings



October 7-11 several gospel meetings held at the following congregations: Sistersville, Pursley, Camden Avenue, Middlebourne, Pine Grove and Salem. More details on meetings on the back bulletin board.

Ladies Day will be held at National Road church of Christ in Wheeling on **October 13, 8:30 -9:30am** is registration

Condolences

To the family of Eli Clark. Eli passed away last week and his funeral was at Camden Ave. Saturday.



Prayer list

*Lorraine Dutton suffered a heart attack on Friday and is scheduled to have a heart catheterization on Monday. Room 317 at CCH.

* John Miller continues to recover from his bypass and is in the hospital with a blood clot.

* Betty Bills is suffering from small strokes and is home at this time.

*Dick Neely had an operation on his heart Wednesday.

Tom Meeks, Jonas Judge, Evelyn Hall, Louise Perkins, Eli Clark, David Stevens, Betty Bills, Larry Truax, Jean Nazelrod, Charlotte Wilson, Colleen Kiestler, Ruth Eddy, Jennifer Shultz, Dick Hall, Bill Dutton, Loraine Dutton, Cindy Wilson, Geraldine Stewart, Gail Mote, Terry Hubner, Madeline McFadden, Arlene Arnett

Church Sign:

October— Dale Parsley

November— Hal Powell

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Worship: 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:00

September 30

Morning Worship:

Announcements: Buzz Williams

Song Leader: Clint Perkins

Ushers: Melvin Truax, Dave Parks

Communion: Hal Powell, Camaron Lancaster, Steven Hays, Bill Dutton, Ethan Davis, Richard Davis

Reading and Prayer: Lew Wilson

Closing Prayer: Tom Becker

Hall Monitors: Melvin Truax, Dave Parks

Evening Worship:

Communion: Larry Butcher

Prayer: Clay Perkins

Closing Prayer: Brian Mercer

Wednesday:

Song Leader: Clint Perkins

Prayer: Dan Kessinger

Closing Prayer: Larry Butcher

October 7

Morning Worship:

Announcements: Dave Parks

Song Leader: Darren Parks

Ushers: Richard Davis, Ethan Davis

Communion: Dave Lancaster, Connor Lancaster, Caleb Parsley, Karson Elrod, Bill Dutton, Rodney Ramsey

Reading and Prayer: Clint Perkins

Closing Prayer: Clay Perkins

Hall Monitors: Buzz Williams, Jesse Barnhart

Evening Worship:

Communion: Lew Wilson

Prayer: Joe Elrod

Closing Prayer: Caleb Parsley

Wednesday:

Song Leader: Darren Parks

Prayer: Hal Powell

Closing Prayer: Tom Becker

Radio and TV Programs



Good News of Peace: Sundays: 8:00 AM on WRRR 93.9 FM

Gospel Broadcasting Network: Dish Network Channel: 9407 (noon); Direct TV Channel: 376 (7:30 AM)



In Search of the Lord's Way: 7:30—Channel 4, Parkersburg; 7:30—Channel 15, Parkersburg; 8:00— Channel 7, Wheeling; 11:30—Channel 5, Clarksburg