

# Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

## PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from October 23, 2011

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### Scripture of the Week



#### Hebrews 6:18-20

*“So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us...”*

David Mamet wrote, “We all hope. It’s what keeps us alive.” Hope is an essential component of a life worth living. It is hope that gets us out of bed every morning and propels us through the day’s often menial activities. Hope sustains us through the difficult hours, days, weeks and years of life, even after our physical strength and mental vigor have long since been sapped by toil and adversity. When the present is shrouded in darkness, it is the light of a better tomorrow that provides that glimmer of hope toward which our eyes strain. Hope is the union of desire and expectation which keeps us pressing onward to that which lies ahead. People build their hopes on a good many things—on social acceptance, intellectual enlargement, finan-

cial advancement, and on prosperity in general. In such things as these, Mr. Mamet was correct in saying, “We all hope”. But the hope that Hebrews 6:19 encourages us to take hold of is a special kind that is reserved only for followers of Jesus Christ. This world has a way of tossing our souls around like a ship battered on a turbulent sea. The only kind of hope that can anchor our souls and keep our minds and hearts steady through the torrents and torments, is trust in the love, promises and steadfastness of the God of heaven. This kind of hope is a confident expectation that, no matter what evil may befall God’s children here on earth, greater things await them in eternity. Is the hope of your soul anchored in the Rock of Ages?

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### Jesus Our Forerunner

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The hope of the faithful follower of Christ is “one which enters within the veil” according to Hebrews 6:19. That is an allusion to the partition that separated the sanctuary from the inner sanctuary in the tabernacle which housed the ark of the covenant. In God’s prior covenant with Israel, the high priest could only enter that “holiest place” once a year with animal blood to atone for the sins of the people. But Jesus entered heaven himself, the true tabernacle made without hands, with His own blood (Hebrews 9:11-12), to make atonement for the sins of the world. When Jesus entered into heaven, the text said He did so as our “forerunner”.

Nelson’s says: “The Greek word for forerunner was used in the second century A.D. of the smaller boats sent into the harbor by larger ships unable to enter due to the buffeting of the weather. These smaller boats carried the anchor through the breakers inside the harbor and dropped it there, securing the larger ship. Forerunner presupposes that others will follow. Thus, Jesus is not only the believer’s anchor but He is like a runner boat that has taken our anchor into port and secured it there” (The Nelson Study Bible, copyright © 1997 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission). The hope of the faithful Christian enters straight into heaven itself.

When Jesus entered into heaven as a forerunner, He blazed a trail for His followers to pursue Him, and made an opening for His disciples to enter in after Him. Rejoice in the hope the Savior has secured for you! But Ephesians 2:12 speaks of our hopeless condition before coming to Christ: “Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” If you haven’t taken hold of the hope set before you in Christ Jesus, you have no hope of heaven. Please come to Jesus in obedient faith before it is too late.

**Please Come Visit Us At...**

**Prairie Village Church of Christ**

**4616 Valley Station Rd., Louisville, KY 40272**

**Preacher – Louie Taylor**

**Phone Number – 502.807.3211**

**www.pvchurchofchrist.com**

**Times of Services**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30**

**Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30**



**To Live is Christ - To Die is Gain**

If you had to sum up in just one word the totality of the purpose of the entirety of the Apostle Paul's life—the very meaning of his existence and reason for his being—that word would have to be "Christ". Paul's sole aim in living was to learn Christ, love Christ, serve Christ, teach Christ, and then to die in Christ so he could live with Christ forever. If anything in his life was antagonistic to the cause of Christ, he eagerly rid himself of that encumbrance. He wrote in Philippians 3:7-8: "*But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,*

*and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.*" Once he came to realize the surpassing value of a life devoted to Christ, he clearly saw that all the status and possessions and authority he had acquired before coming to Him was worthless in comparison. Gaining a closer walk with Christ in his earthly life was the only type of gain Paul was interested in. That's why he was able to say that dying was actually a means of gain as well. "*For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*" (Philippians 1:21). If he lived, that would just mean more opportunities to serve Christ and to help others learn about Him. If he died, that would just mean he would be with Christ in heaven for ever. That's what we call a "win-win situation" in

our vernacular. Isn't it wonderful to know that if you are living for Christ, there's no way you can possible lose! You could suffer the loss of your health, your wealth, your worldly possessions, your friends and family, or any other earthly connection or object, and everything would still be okay. If you die in Christ Jesus, you have all the riches and splendors of heaven to thrill you, and the company of Lord of glory to gratify you for all eternity. A faithful subject of the King of kings need never fear life or death. Are you presently walking in the vigor of life? Use the health God has given you to serve more fully. Are you currently standing at eternity's threshold? Glory in knowing you'll soon receive your reward!

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**OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH GERRY SANDUSKY**

If you missed any of the lessons from our Gospel meeting of August 15-17, they are posted on our website at [www.pvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.pvchurchofchrist.com). Click the tab that indicates that meeting, and you can either "left click" the "play" button and listen to the sermon from your computer, or you can "right click" and save that sermon to file and listen to it elsewhere. Thanks to everyone who attended and prayed for our special meeting.