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><> ><> ><> ><> ><> WAYNE BROOKE <>< <>< <>< <>< <><

Dear Friends in Christ:

Praise the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is our Hope.

Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.

We find Hope defined as a Joyful Confident Expectation.

Hebrews 13:13 (Amplified Bible) And so faith, hope, love abide [faith--conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope--joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love--true affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us], these three; but the greatest of these is love.

We all have memories, some are good, some are bad, others are wonderful. I seem to have more trouble with wonderful memories than anything else because I seem to think I can reproduce them again, but they always seem to disappoint me and let me down. In other words, they don't work well for planning my future.

The beautiful thing about hope is that it will never leave you disappointed like memories do. Hope is what makes me wake up in the morning with great joy and expectation.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Philippians 3:13-14 "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Some of my best memories have to do with fishing. Dad would tell me on Friday night that we would be getting up early to go fishing. I could hardly wait for morning to come and I definitely didn't need an alarm. Here in Forsyth I had some wonderful times catching white bass with my fly-rod. Jessie and I have had wonderful times catching trout. The last couple years it seems, either the fish are gone, or the lake is flooded, or the weather is bad, so I either can't go or, I come home without any fish. If my hope is based on past memories then it becomes a forlorn hope: (**forlorn hope**: A persistent or desperate hope that is unlikely to be fulfilled.) Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

As we saw in 1 Corinthians 13:13 Faith, Hope and Love are eternal. They also work together regarding our future and our future activities.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Galatians 5:6 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."

So putting these two verses together we find that faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for and that faith works through love. If we walk in Faith and Love we will always have great Hope and Joy that is unspeakable and full of Glory.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the Hope of glory.

Yes, we can have a Joyful and Confident Expectation and a reason to look forward to every new day, and all the wonderful things in it. One day all these things will also be wonderful memories.

Thanks once again for your friendship, love, prayers and support.

Yours in Christ, ><>wayne<><