



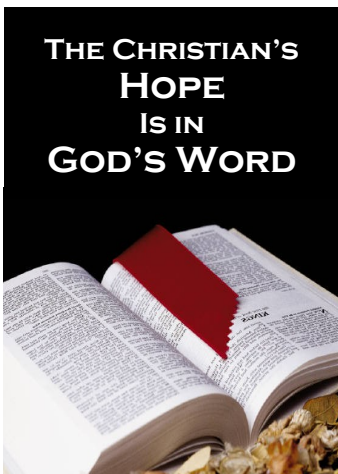
Voice of Emmanuel Baptist Church

Volume 4 Issue 2

February 2011

Faith-Hope-Love The Three-Corded Strength for Believers

Dean Strickland



The greatest of Faith-Hope-Love is Love. “So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love” (I Corinthians 13:13). It is clear here that love is the greatest of the three abiding attributes of the Christian life, but hope is the fulcrum, the balance bar, between faith and love. “For David says concerning Him (Jesus), I saw the Lord always before me, for He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced: my flesh also will dwell in hope” (Acts 2:25-26).

The Christian should always dwell in hope. One may ask, “What hope?” Psalm 119:114 says, “You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in thy Word.” The Christian’s hope is in God’s Word. Read it. Study it. Pray over it. “Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my Salvation, and my God” (Psalm 42:5).

Also we are to hope in the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ (Acts 23:6) and in eternal life. “So that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:7). Finally, hope for the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (I John 3:2-3).

Brothers and sisters at EBC and friends everywhere, let us increase our hope in all of the above as we have a new year before us, and the blessed hope of the Lord Jesus will sustain us. May it so be!



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**My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay.
Edward Mote, 1834**

God, Creator of All

Lola Dennis

GOD, Creator of all,

May my soul and spirit be united with You.
May my heart beat for You.
May my love for You be as Yours for us.
May we ever be humble, for Your mercy and grace are forever.

Lord, please bless Your servants.
May You hold them in Your hand.
May we walk more closely with You.
May we be obedient to Your commands and shine for You.

Give us strength to never move from Your truth,
to face Your foes with wisdom
and Your saints with love.

Lord, we can never thank You with words,
for what You give us is greater than all our thoughts—
greater than what we can imagine.

May we be humble, united in the great truth of Your Word.
Undeserving as we are, You reached down with love
to touch our hearts,
to give everlasting life.

Thank You, with all praise to You forever and forever.
How great You are,
God, the only God,
Jesus Your Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

The new year is ours to use as we choose;
Lord, may we choose to be Your servants and Your light.

There are three in One and One in three,
and the One in the middle died for me.

Thank You.

Amen.



Let us draw
near to God with
a sincere heart in
full assurance
of faith...

Hebrews 10:22

EBC

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EBC's Newest Member: Joan Matthews

Joan was born in Wayne County to Leo and Mildred Edenfield. She had two sisters, Pat and Diane, and a brother, Charles. She particularly remembers playing with her sister Pat when they were children. She learned truth and honesty from her parents and says that her mother had the ability to make her laugh when she wanted to cry. She took her first step toward Jesus when she was thirteen years old.

She attended school in Jesup and graduated from Jesup High School in 1960. She was married to David Matthews for eight years and has two sons and four grandchildren who call her either Mommy Joan or Grandmommy.

She worked at *The Press-Sentinel* for twenty years beginning in 1973 as a type setter and ending as managing editor. In 1986 while she was jogging, she was in a terrible accident due to negligence of an automobile driver. She suffered multiple life-threatening injuries, some for which she will never completely overcome. At one point because of her failing kidneys, the doctors and her family decided she must begin dialysis which would be continued for the rest of her life. On the day scheduled to begin the treatment, her kidneys suddenly began to work. This along with other healings would cause Joan to eventually be referred to as a *miracle lady*. No one had expected her to survive. After being out for a year, she resumed her work at *The Press-Sentinel*. She says, "They took me back!" In 1996 she lost one kidney, but as many others with only one kidney, she was able to carry on with her life.

Some of Joan's good memories are of trips with her sister Pat to visit her brother in Arizona. They took a ten-day trip with him and his wife in an RV. Once they had to park in a field in Mexico because they could not find an RV park. And who of us can say that we have been to Peru? Joan once took a boat trip on the Amazon River, but she says she "got the revenge after eating river catfish."

In 1993 Joan moved to Forsythe, GA, to be near her son and worked for a yellow pages company until 2000. She had been a member of Jesup Presbyterian Church for several years prior to leaving Jesup, and shortly after moving she changed her membership to Ramah Primitive Baptist Church in Barnesville, GA. In 2010 things worked out for her to move back home to live with her niece Kim Wharam, also a member of EBC, and she recently became EBC's newest member. We are thankful for God's evident providence in Joan's life. With her engaging smile and positive attitude in spite of her health issues, she is a wonderful inspiration and reminder of the grace of God in the lives his people.



Shadow of the Almighty: The Life and Testament of Jim Elliot
and Through Gates of Splendor by Elizabeth Elliott.

Inspirational and true accounts of missionaries to Ecuador in the twentieth century.

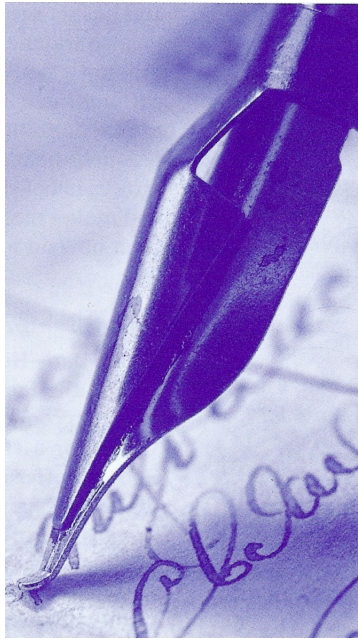
A Letter from Tapescrew

With Apologies to C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters* consists of an imagined correspondence between the senior demon *Screwtape* and his young nephew *Woodworm*. *Screwtape* gives advice on tempting and leading humans astray. Lewis uses this correspondence to make some insightful and often biting observations about the human condition and how easily we are deceived by the forces of evil.

This is the second of three letters from *Screwtape's* relative *Tapescrew* writing to his nephew *Woodworm*, in which he delights in the human tendency to resist dependence on "the Enemy."

Ron Man



My dear Woodworm, On earth, people are presently in what I like to call the "Do It Yourself" age. Everywhere you look, men and women are in relentless pursuit of independence: financial independence, political independence, independence from responsibility, independence from objective standards of behavior, independence from marriage vows, independence from unwanted pregnancies, independence from all restraints and limitations to their so-called "self-fulfillment" and "self-expression."

Their singers sing, "I did it my way"; their poets proclaim, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul"; their business tycoons boast of being "self-made men"; their authors write "self-help" books by the truckloads; their commercials insist, "Have it *your* way...and you're worth it."

Of course, "DIY" is the foundation of *religion*, and as such it has been an effective tool for blinding earthly creatures to the Enemy's efforts to buy their release. The root of all sin is independence—independence from the Enemy's claim to our sole allegiance—and this is, of course, the way our Father in Hell charted for us so long ago.

Naturally we cringe and grieve when any of the miserable creatures actually takes the step of acknowledging ultimate dependence on the Enemy and becomes a Christian. But even then, all is not lost. We can still wreak such havoc as to make them largely ineffective. The spirit of the age, which we have so skillfully woven through the very fabric of their society, can infect them and derail them from being constructive agents for the Enemy.

You see, no sooner do these creatures cast their loyalty upon Him than we are right back on the job, clogging their

minds with the nagging question. "What should I do?" In their compulsion to "get busy for God," they forget (or rather, we drown out) their just-learned dependence on the Enemy and assume that *they* need to take it from there. And so they do their best to live what they call "the Christian life" in their own strength. It's rather fun to watch them scurry about like ants at a picnic. We are delighted to let them make this futile attempt at self-determination, because they run out of steam pretty quickly. Then they wonder why they sense no victory, why it seems so hard, why they can't get it together. And we gloat, knowing that we have fogged their minds and avoided that *dependence* on the Enemy's power which is our only true fear.

In a subtle way their worship is similarly infected by the "DIY" mentality. When worship is merely an exercise of self-effort it is, of course, doomed to failure. As long as we keep them trying to impress each other or the Enemy Himself with the size, quality, or enthusiasm of their worship activities, there's no real danger of anything profound or eternally significant happening.

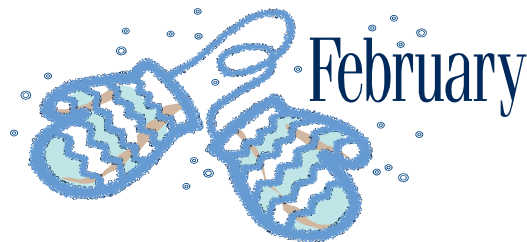
It's amusing to sit back and watch the little vermin struggling to "make worship happen," trying to force their way into the Enemy's presence, as though He had to be cajoled into giving them an audience! If they only knew the truth about the power of true worship, we'd be running for cover! But as long as we can keep their focus on what *they* do rather than on what the Enemy has done, they'll be left in a constant state of wondering whether their efforts are good enough.

Having been "saved by grace" as they call it (and how we shudder at those words!), they revert to *religion* and try to reach the Enemy without ever being quite certain that they will "make the cut." "DIY" worship keeps them guessing, which is the surest way to keep them off-balance—which is, of course, right where we want them! As long as they resist full dependence on God in their worship, and in their walk, they will spin their wheels without making much progress. Exactly what our Father in Hell has in mind.

Affectionately yours,
Uncle Tapescrew

*Copied from Reformed Worship, September 2010,
reformedworship.org*

Events and Service Opportunities



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 01 Stephen Sumrow
- 07 Tony Sumrow
- 09 Mike Westwood
- 17 Gail Waters
- 24 Destiny Brooks
- 27 Chlo Dukes

COMING EVENTS

- Elders Meeting**—February 7, 6:30 pm, at EBC
- WIC**—Tuesday, February 1, 6:30 pm
- BIC**—Tuesday, February 8, 6:30 pm
- Dinner and A Movie**—February 11, 6:00 pm. at EBC

FLOWERS

- 06 Candice Yawn
- 13 Rose Rogers
- 20 Ann & Carl Lane
- 27 Need a volunteer

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- 06 am—Katie & Will Brooks
pm—Fran McElveen & Ann Lane
- 13 am—Bobbie Browning & Lynne Groover
pm—Freda Smith & JoAnn Lewis
- 20 am—Maxine & Tony Sumrow
pm—Rebecca Sumrow & Pat Shepherd
- 27 am—Megan Groover & Candice Yawn
pm—Joann Westberry & Staci O'Quinn

USHERS

- 06 Will Brooks & Carl Yarbrough
- 13 Phillip Sumrow & Colt Yawn
- 20 Carl Lane & Gary Shepherd
- 27 Matt Yawn & Ben Sumrow

*Coat and tie requested or your best Sunday attire.
Please contact one of the deacons prior to the
scheduled date if you are unable to serve.*

*Ministry to Haiti
for
Girls and Women*



**Sponsored by EBC's
Women In Christ**

**See the list posted on the bulletin board
for appropriate gift items.**

**Look for additional information in upcoming
Sunday bulletins.**

Dinner and a Movie

**Friday, February 11, 2011
6:00 pm, at EBC**



Soups, sandwiches, salads

with the feature presentation:

End of the Spear

The true story of a group of Christian missionaries in Ecuador who set out to reach the Wadani tribe (a violent Ecuadorian tribe defined by revenge killing). When the five men from this group are speared to death by Mincayani and others in the tribe (who believe all foreigners are cannibals), the wives and children of those men move into the Wadani tribe to teach them about God. *End of the Spear* is an amazing story of Truth, Love, and Forgiveness.

At times God puts us through the discipline of darkness to teach us to heed Him. Song birds are taught to sing in the dark, and we are put into the shadow of God's hand until we learn to hear Him. Watch where God puts you into darkness, and when you are there, keep your mouth shut. Are you in the dark just now in your circumstances, or in your life with God? Then remain quiet. When you are in the dark, listen, and God will give you a very precious message for someone else when you get into the light.

-Oswald Chambers



*I am always
with you*
Matthew 28:20

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