

# Others Who Have No Hope

By Jim Faughn

Please read the following words found in the English Standard Version of 1 Thessalonians 4:13 very carefully:

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others who do not have hope.*

I believe that most of us readily understand that the “sleep” being referred to here is the “sleep” of death. I believe it is also fairly obvious that the use of the word “brothers” means that these words are addressed to Christians.

- Does this verse teach us that Christians are not to grieve (mourn, sorrow, etc.) at all when a loved one passes from this life?
- Are Christians supposed to just act as though nothing had ever happened and go on with their lives?
- Does a Christian’s confidence in an eternal home make him or her immune to feelings of loss?

If you read that verse carefully, you realize that the answer to those questions is, “NO.” The sorrow of a Christian is not to be “...as others who have no hope.”

More often than I really care to remember, I’ve been in more homes, hospital rooms, nursing home rooms, etc. when death has taken a loved one from family members and friends. Sometimes death has occurred after a long and serious illness. Sometimes the death is sudden and unexpected. In all reality, no two deaths and no two families are ever exactly the same.

However, I’ve noticed that many of the situations in which I’ve found myself can broadly fit into one of two categories. Both of these categories are linked to the fact that I’m a preacher (and an elder) and that I often get called on during trying times like this.

I’ve been in situations when people just want a preacher around. Any “brand” will do. Often, these people are confused. In fact, “panic” might not be too strong a word. These people want somebody --- anybody --- that has some sort of religious credentials to calm them and assure them in some way. They may not even be aware of what way they have in mind. They just want a preacher around. His presence seems to have some sort of calming effect on them.

The other people I’ve been with are just as sad and feel their loss just as much as the first group. Depending on the circumstances, they may even be as confused as the people in the first group. Through tears they express words that convey their grief to the preacher and to one another.

While, they also appreciate a preacher being with them, their actions and words convey a quiet confidence that the other group does not have. Their confidence is not dependent upon the presence of a preacher. Their confidence is in God and His promises.

It is my prayer that all of us could be a part of this second group of people. It is also my prayer that each of us will live our lives in such a way that those who are left behind can have that quiet confidence that is needed so much during very trying times.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

August 23, 2020

## WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today’s Sermon:** *What Do We Do Now?*

Paul Cowles will deliver the sermon today.

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 1:9-11**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: August 26<sup>th</sup>**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. Last week we continued our study of Hosea.
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: TBA**



- **Lori Kashorek**, who we have been praying for during the last several years while she was dealing with lung cancer and brain tumors, has come home from the hospital under Hospice care.
- **Tim spent Thursday night at Cayuga Medical Center because of an infection caused by a dental problem. He also had to have his beloved pet cat put to sleep the day he returned home on Friday. He has an appointment to have his tooth removed in 2 weeks.**
- **Bill Dayton**, friend of Arthur and Sandy who preaches in KY, called Arthur on Friday and said he feels much better after his 3-year battle with depression. He is retiring from preaching and enjoying his life. He wants you all to know that he appreciates the prayers we offered on his behalf.
- Paul will be preaching today.

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for all of us as businesses and schools open amidst the Covid-19 crisis.**
- **Pray for Tim as he grieves the loss of his pet and recovers from the infection that put him in the hospital. Pray that his dental appointment will take care of the problem.**
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his esophageal cancer in the months to come. He should be having surgery this month.
- **Prayers of thanksgiving for Bill Dayton and his recovery from depression.**
- A friend of the Barrys, **Steve Harrison**, who lives with his family in Viet Nam is suffering with dark depression.
- **Doug Kashorek has asked for prayers for himself and his wife Lori as she has decided to go home to be with the Lord when He decides to take her.**
- **Please pray about the Lord's Supper and how we can keep our faith and please God during this time of pandemic.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.