



The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



P.O. Box 429 • 2070 Old Highway 27 • Trion, GA 30753 • 706.734.2722 • pleasantgrovecoc.org

Building Hope

The men were in the front room to watch the game, and the women were in the den. Because the women were watching a TV hooked to an antenna, and the guys' TV was hooked up to the internet, the ladies were about 45 seconds ahead of the men. After the game, which came down to the wire, they said they thought it weird to hear us yell in excitement at the great plays, not knowing what they knew – our beloved team had already lost. One of them commented, "It was sad to hear you so hopeful when you had none."

As sad as that might be for football fans, it is even more dismal when we think of how many build their lives on false hope. However, for the faithful follower of the Lord, that is not the case! Biblical hope is not like a wish one might make after blowing out birthday candles. Instead, it is looking forward to something with confidence, expecting fulfillment. As Paul begins his letter to Titus (1:1-2), he tells us how that hope is built. We see this by noticing the prepositions.

ACCORDING TO FAITH. We must first build our faith in God! Of course, that faith is established by knowing Him. The more we learn of God, His nature, His power, and His trustworthiness, the more that trust is built.

AND ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE.

There are two words for knowledge in the Greek language. One is a "book-knowledge." The other is knowledge gained through experience. It is the latter used here! He wants us not just to know what it says, but to experience God's word in our lives.

ACCORDING TO GODLINESS. Faith in God leads us to live His word. Living His word leads to Godliness! So, what is Godliness? Perhaps the best definition is found in I Timothy 1:5, "love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE. He changes prepositions. All of it is building up to this. The desire and expectation (hope) we have is built on faith, knowledge, and Godliness.

Now read this passage in reverse. Eternal life is only available to those who live godly. For Godly living to take place, the proper knowledge of God's word is needed. For knowledge to take root, it must be received in faith.

For those of us still rooting for our team, we were cheering based on what we wanted to happen, yet it was not to be. However, those of us desiring and expecting eternal life - who have hope - ours is not an empty hope! Built on faith in our God, applying His word, and living for Him, we have a hope that anchors our soul! --Borrowed

December 21, 2025

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Kevin Hayes
Closing Prayer Payton Payne

Scripture Reading Eldon Alexander

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Dallas York
Closing Prayer Joseph Tucker

Remember in prayer:

Amanda Fletcher (radiation treatments).
Luke Keller, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Joan Henry, Norene and Ronnie O'Kelly, Heidi Street, Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund, Sammy Wyers.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Home: Rachel Taylor.

This week our Mid-week Bible Classes will be
Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 31st, we will have a singing service, followed by a finger food fellowship.

Record for the week of December 14, 2025
10 am 11 am 1 pm Wed Contribution
97 87 67 83 \$3207.01

Three Approaches to Life

What is life all about? The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 illustrates three possible answers.

1. **LIVING IT UP!** The younger prodigal son rejected his father and "set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living" (verse 13).

2. **GRUDGING DUTY.** The older brother harshly rebuked his father's forgiving spirit with "all these years I've been slaving for you" (verse 29). His resentful response revealed his true feelings toward his father – the older brother's obedience was a grudging, ungrateful duty.

3. **JOYFUL LOVE.** The father gently replied, "My son, you are always with me and everything I have is yours, but we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; He was lost and is found" (verses 31-32),

One son tried to live it up and one toiled resentfully to make a living.

Between the license of the younger, and the legalism of the older, stood the father's compassion.

Between the unrighteousness of the one, and the self-righteousness of the other, stood a father's mercy.

Between wanton pleasure and wounded pride stood a father's love for both his sons, even though both had rejected his.

Both sons were self-centered, each in his own way, and thus both were "dead."

Only the father, who loved unselfishly, understood what life all is about.

Dan Williams

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan