



## MSOP LECTURESHIP

The Fifty-First Annual Memphis School of Preaching Lectureship was held from March 26-30, 2017. This year's theme was *"Build Your Hopes on Things Eternal"*, a line that was taken from Ms. Jennie Wilson's song, *"Hold to God's Unchanging Hand."*

All speakers did outstanding preaching, defending the Truth of God's Word in their messages, and edifying the saints that were present, or watched online.

We are thankful with the opportunity that we had to be part of this event, a little taste of how Heaven will be.



Recordings of the Lectureship are available at <http://msopptw.org>

## OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

While we are still in Memphis, finishing our studies as part of the World Missions Program at Memphis School of Preaching (MSOP), we are delighted to publish our first newsletter. The honor and blessing of being students at MSOP are truly good things to be thankful. We are still preparing, packing, and setting everything that is needed to return back home, Panama, a beautiful country, with a population close to four million. Yes, four million souls that can be reached with the Gospel, but, one step at a time. We are thankful for your interest in our ministry, and certainly appreciate your prayers, love, and support.

We are thankful to our heavenly Father for all the blessings He provides to His children every time. We, Christians, have a common hope, to go to Heaven, to be with Him as He purposed it. This same hope, is the one that we will preach and teach every day of our lives, with the purpose to glorify God in everything we do, as well as reach as many souls we can, allowing them to be part of this great blessing that we have, to be called the children of God (Galatians 3:26).

May God bless you all the time, and to Him be all glory.

## HOPE IN THE EYES OF THE CHRISTIAN.

Marlon Retana.

Modern dictionaries define the word *"hope"* as a desire, or just as something that people wants. Merriam-Webster gives a second definition in just one word, *"trust"* ([www.merriam.com](http://www.merriam.com)). It records it as an archaic term, which means that it is a primitive or old language form. Christians today can firmly say that our *"hope"* is not just a plain desire, **but the "trust" we have in God, His Word, and His promises.**

Both, the Hebrew words used in the Old Testament as well as the Greek words in the New Testament, translated as *"hope,"* bear the meaning not only of a desire with anticipation, but the confidence that it is truth, a reality in which the Bible reader can trust and believe, and not doubt or take as just a simple wish. *"Hope"* is found 130 times in the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. The books in which is found the most are Psalms (22), Job (16), Romans (15), Acts (9) Jeremiah (8), and Proverbs (7).

The first usage of the word “*hope*” is found in Ruth 1:12, and the context of the passage shows the knowledge that Naomi (Ruth’s mother-in-law) had on the word of God, as she remembered what is written in Deuteronomy 25:5 regarding the death of a man without child and the responsibility of his brothers. Naomi was old, and as she said, even in the best biggest scenario possible (hope) of the chance of getting married that same day and to bear children after that, she knew that those two women would not be able to wait for them to grow up and married them, neither will be fair for them. Having God’s Word available and in our hands, is so great that we can learn that after that event, Ruth decided not to leave Naomi, but stayed with her, followed her advice, got to know Boaz, married him, begat Obed, who begat Jesse, who begat David (Ruth 4:21-22), all of these as part of the plan of God to bring to this earth “*Jesus Christ, the son of David, the Son of Abraham*” (Matthew 1:1). The hope that was giving since the beginning (Genesis 3:15) remained alive. Not in vain, the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write,

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*“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”*

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(1 Peter 3:15).

Christians today can take their Bibles, go out, and assure to this world that this hope is not fiction, but history and truth. The Word of God is Truth (John 17:17).

As mentioned in the previous page, the song “*Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand*” was written by Ms. Jennie Wilson, and served as a start point for the MSOP Lectureship of this year.

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*When she was about four years old, an attack of spinal trouble resulted in rendering her an invalid. Not being able to attend school, she studied at home, read much and received some musical instruction. . . She was baptized in 1881, being carried on a chair into a beautiful tree-shaded stream, and, in her words: “It gave me much joy to thus confess my dear Saviour”*

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(Hall, Jacob Henry. *Biography of Gospel Song and Hymn Writers*. 1914, pp. 373-375).

A woman with so many difficulties in this life wrote such a beautiful song that reminds us that: the things of this world are temporal (James 4:14), in God we can set our trust (Psalm 37:3-5), knowing that He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), and when our journey on this earth is completed (Ecclesiastes 12:7), He will have a place prepared for us (John 14:3), because He holds our hand and help us (Isaiah 41:13).

Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1). “*The only begotten Son*” of God (John 3:16) was tempted but did not sin (Matthew 4:1-11, 1 Peter 2:22), and He “*is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world*” (1 John 2:2). He set the example of how Christians must do (John 13:15), by being the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

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*“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost”*

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(Romans 15:13).

God’s Word is the power of the Holy Spirit given unto us today. How wonderful is to know and to be sure that we can hold to God’s Unchanging Hand!

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV) Public Domain.