



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
254-386-3953

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Please call or email if you
have a question or comment
254-386-3953

jeffdsweeten@gmail.com or
chelejones24@yahoo.com

Website:
www.parkheightscoc.com

Thus Saith the Lord **A WORLD OF HOPE**

By Jeff Sweeten

The world is not our friend. As a Christian, there is a constant war raging within between the forces of the flesh and the soldier of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). It is a battle won (for Christ has overcome, John 16:33), but the ugliness of the fight is ongoing. Winning the war depends on our focus: what we love, we pursue, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34).

So, John's warning is timeless. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17). It's so simple, but judging from the downward spiral of our "one nation under God," the practical application is anemic, at best, and frequently absent. In a frighteningly temporary world, our firm foundation resides in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:11). For the Christian, there is a world of hope.

A wise, old Christian once shared with me a conclusion he had drawn about our world, based largely upon his struggles and trials. He said, "I'm glad I'm on the way out, and not on the way in." Obviously, he longed for Heaven but the statement also carried a sad commentary about our current culture. As the years fly by, the folly of physical things becomes immediate and John's warning contains the eternity killer: a love of the world. As we advance in years, fewer pleasures afford us comfort and, if that's where our hope is, this breeds bitterness and fear.

The great prophet Isaiah, speaking to a carnal, worldly people, warned would-be children of God that "the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished" (Isaiah 51:6). We must be "transformed by the renewing of (our) mind" (Romans 12:2).

Being Christian demands that we "Set (our) affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2), because the sure and secure foundation of our ability to cope with life here on Earth resides in our hope of eternity in Heaven. Therefore, let us "lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast" (Hebrews 6:18-19). There is available, to those who love and obey God (John 14:15), a world of hope.