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Here's Hope

By Rev. Jerry Rea

Plodding

False hope is that thing that aspiring politicians plug into. They promise us the moon, and with starry eyes we fall for it. It only takes about a month for the truth to arise, and we understand we've been duped. False hope is that feeling you get just before you invest in a "new diet." The pounds will just melt away (so the advertisement promises). Politicians have a vested interest in keeping our false hopes alive. Health and Fitness companies have a vested interest in convincing you that you will achieve your desired weight. At the end of the day, though, it's all false hope.

Real hope is to latch onto a promise given by a trusted friend, or a special doctor and hang on until reality catches up with the hope. Real hope is when we read and meditate on the promises of God (usually in Christ Jesus) and "buy into" what God is doing, even if it should take what seems like forever. Jesus promises not to leave us - and He doesn't. Jesus promises to lead us to green grass and still waters, and He comes through. Jesus promises to bring good out of your bad, and He does. Jesus promised us He'd return, and He will.

Between the promise and the fulfillment there is often "plodding." Your dictionary defines plodding as "making one's way slowly and perseveringly." Our Christian journey involves perseverance, endurance, and patience. Plodding is when you push forward purposefully, believing that the promise is not just words on paper, or even in the Holy Book. They are what are called, "promises." And a promise is only as good as the person who gives it. Jesus has given His word that He'll always be there, providing, guiding and loving. I choose to believe Jesus. What reason would He ever have to lie? His very name is "truth."

And so, we plod. It may seem unproductive and slow. It may feel unspiritual. After all, we want to do something unearthly, or otherworldly. We want lights, lightning, wind and smoke. Incidentally, the fog machines some use at church these days is a cheap substitute for the presence of God. In the real world there is an extreme need for plodders.

There is a pathway that stretches out before you. Do you see it? At the end of the road are riches and rest and a glad reunion. But before we get there, we often must... plod along. The burden sometimes feels heavy, but forward we move. Our questions are often left hanging, but one step after another we follow Jesus. Storms pop up and seed us with fear. Doubts rise in our hearts about the way and the hoped for end. The way is long but the fellowship is full. So, take hope and plod along.

One step after another until we step over,
Jerry Rea