

NEW MEMBER'S GUIDE

For the New Christian

ASSURANCE

"they shall never perish".....John 10:27-29
 "yet shall he live".....John 11:25,26
 "is passed from death unto life".....John 5:24
 "neither death, nor life shall separate us" Romans 8:38,39
 "HE that hath the Son hath life"1 John 5:11,12
 "he that hath begun... will perform it" Philippians 1:6
 "an inheritance incorruptible"1 Peter 1:4

WHEN FACED WITH TEMPTATIONS

"temptation... is common to man.....1 Corinthians 10:13
 "the devil...seeking whom...devour1 Peter 5:8-9
 "the man that endureth temptation".....James 1:12
 "I have overcome the world"John 16:33
 "do all things through Christ".....Philippians 4:13

IF SINS OCCUR

"If we confess our sins".....1 John 1:9
 "return unto the Lord".....Isaiah 55:7
 "a contrite heart... wilt not despise".....Psalm 51:17
 "we have an advocate".....1 John 2:1
 "seek my face, and turn".....2 Chronicles 7:14
 "confesseth and forsaketh them".....Proverbs 28:13

GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

IN THE WORD OF GOD

"desire ...milk of the word".....1 Peter 2:2
 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart".....Psalm 119:11
 "were written for our learning".....Romans 15:4
 "scripture... is profitable".....2 Timothy 3:16,17
 "Study to show thyself approved".....2 Timothy 2:15
 "Thy word is a lamp unto my path".....Psalm 119:105
 "delight is in the law of the Lord".....Psalm 1:1,2

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

"by prayer and supplication".....Philippians 4:6,7
 "call upon the name of the Lord".....Psalm 116:17
 "ye shall ask".....John 15:7
 "Ask, and it shall be given you".....Luke 11:9,10
 "And when thou prayest".....Matthew 6:5-15
 "Pray without ceasing".....1 Thessalonians 5:17,18
 "Praying always with all prayer".....Ephesians 6:18
 "Take ye heed, watch and pray".....Mark 13:33

THE IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP

"Not forsaking the assembling".....Hebrews 10:25
 "teaching and admonishing one another".....Colossians 3:16
 "Speaking to yourselves".....Ephesians 5:19
 "the body ..hath many members".....1 Corinthians 12:12
 "members should have...care.....1 Corinthians 12:25-27

Jesus Loves You!

Witnessing to Others

GOD LOVES YOU

"For God so loved".....John 3:16
 "God commendeth His love".....Romans 5:8
 "Herein is love".....1 John 4:10
 "gave himself ...might deliver us".....Galatians 1:4
 "Son...is come to seek".....Luke 19:10

THE FACT OF SIN

"none righteous".....Romans 3:10
 "all have sinned".....Romans 3:23
 "not a just man".....Ecclesiastes 7:20
 "The heart is...wicked".....Jeremiah 17:9,10
 "righteousnesses... filthy rags".....Isaiah 64:6
 "say that we have no sin".....1 John 1:8

THE PENALTY

"soul that sinneth...die".....Ezekiel 18:4,20
 "sin...bringeth forth death.".....James 1:15
 "once to die...judgement".....Hebrews 9:27
 "wages of sin is death".....Romans 6:23
 "shall give account...to God".....Romans 14:12
 "dead were judged".....Revelation 20:12-15

MAN'S INABILITY

"Not by works of righteousness".....Titus 3:5
 "not justified by the works".....Galatians 2:16
 "faith...not of yourselves".....Ephesians 2:8,9
 "deeds...no flesh be justified".....Romans 3:20
 "way which seemeth right".....Proverbs 14:12
 "righteousnesses... filthy rags".....Isaiah 64:6

GOD'S REMEDY

"Christ died for us.".....Romans 5:8
 "gift of God is eternal life".....Romans 6:23
 "I am the way".....John 14:6
 "Neither...salvation in any other".....Acts 4:12
 "save that which was lost".....Luke 19:10
 "Christ died for our sins".....1 Corinthians 15:3

MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

"Repent ye therefore".....Acts 3:19
 "repentance...faith".....Acts 20:21
 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ".....Acts 16:31
 "believe on his name".....John 1:12
 "confess...believe shall be saved".....Romans 10:9,10
 "call upon the name of the Lord".....Romans 10:13

RESULTS OF SALVATION

"not condemned".....John 3:18
 "hath everlasting life".....John 3:36
 "he is a new creation".....2 Corinthians 5:17
 "the children of God".....Romans 8:16
 "heirs of God".....Romans 8:17
 "peace I give unto you".....John 14:27
 "Spirit of God dwell in you".....Romans 8:9
 "names are in the book of life".....Philippians 4:3

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth is the process by which we mature in our relationship with God. As much as a child wants to grow to an adult, the new Christian should want to grow in God's knowledge. Christians that wish to grow "happy and healthy" recognize the importance of several things in their lives and follow God's growth formula outlined below:

The Importance of God's Word

I Peter 2:2
Psalm 119:11
Romans 15:4
II Timothy 3:16,17
II Timothy 2:15
Psalm 119:105
Psalm 1:1,2

The Importance of Prayer

Philippians 4:6,7
Psalm 116:17
John 15:7
Luke 11:9,10
Matthew 6:5-15
I Thessalonians 5:17,18
Ephesians 6:18
Mark 13:33

The Importance of Fellowship

Hebrews 10:25
Colossians 3:16
Ephesians 5:19
I Corinthians 12:12
I Corinthians 12:25-27

BAPTISM

1. Definition

Baptism is an outward expression of an internal action. Being saved by the Holy Ghost precedes baptism, as baptism alone saves no one (Acts 19:1-6).

2. Purpose

Baptism is in compliance with the Scriptures that quoted The Great Commission of Jesus to baptize all believers in His name (Matthew 28:19-20).

3. Symbolization

Baptism symbolizes the washing/cleansing of one, being submerged in water with their sins and rising in the newness of life with sins washed away (Romans 6:3-4).

4. Course of Action

Having first been baptized by the Holy Ghost, one is further baptized into the Body of Christ, also known as The Church, in which fellowship with Jesus and the followers of God can be practiced and exercised (I Corinthians 12:13-27).

SALVATION

1. Definition

Salvation is the deliverance from the power of penalty of sin, by Christ, realizing and demonstrating Life, Truth, and Love as supreme over all; carrying with it the destruction of the illusions of sin, sickness, and death. Being reconciled to God through Christ by a new life (Ephesians 2:1-6).

2. Source/Process

Salvation is a gift from God that is independent of who or what one is (Ephesians 2:8).

3. Price

Salvation is ours for the confession with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and belief in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10).

4. Benefits

The benefits of salvation are Earthly Quality Life, Christ centric Existence, and Eternal Life (I John 2:25).

"Today's Church for Today's People"

Dr. Earl L. Bledsoe - Pastor

Welcome to the Body of Christ that is known as **GREAT HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH**. We are excited that you have chosen to join the Great Hope Family. We invite your input, we encourage your involvement and we pray for your continual spiritual growth.

HOW OUR ORGANIZATION IS GOVERNED

We believe that the scriptures teach that a viable church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of baptized believers. We are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel. We observe the ordinances of Jesus Christ, governed by His Word and exercise the gifts, rights, privileges and authority invested in us by **GOD's Word**. The theme of Great Hope Baptist Church is *"To Know the Purpose of Faith"*. Our purpose is to worship GOD, to save the lost, to build a Christ like fellowship and to serve the community in which we are planted. *(Second Timothy 3:10)*

We offer you the following schedule of church activities for your spiritual growth, information and convenience:

- Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. - Every Sunday
- Morning Worship - 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Every Sunday
- Midweek Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. - Wednesdays
- Midweek Prayer & Praise - 7:30 p.m. - Wednesdays
- Noonday Bible Study - 12:00 Noon - Thursdays
- Dedication of Babies - 3rd Sunday (Upon Request)
- New Members Classes - 9:30 a.m. - Every Sunday

There are many ministries and organizations at Great Hope and we invite you to learn and become an active part of them.

WELCOME!

We are glad to have you as one of our new family member! As a new member of Great Hope Baptist Church, you are assigned a Shepherd. A Shepherd is one (brother or sister in Christ) who walks with you during your first month here at Great Hope. They will also assist you in becoming more familiar with your new church home and your new family members, as you develop a closer relationship with God. After your Shepherd has walked with you, your lay group leader (one of the Deacons) will walk with you until you are more comfortable in your new church home.

Should a problem arise at any time during this journey, as you worship in this branch of Zion, please consult your Shepherd or lay group leader. If you are unable to resolve your concerns with your Shepherd or lay group leader, then direct your concerns to your pastor.

Once again, we welcome you and pray that you continue to allow God to lead you in this walk as He reveals his purpose for your life!

God Bless,
The New Members' Ministry

Church Etiquette for the Sanctuary

Do not walk:

- While the Word of God is being preached
- While the scripture is being read
- While prayer is being offered
- Across the front of the pulpit

Do not:

- Walk onto the pulpit to pass notes or messages to the Pastor. Give the message to one of the Ushers.
- Eat or drink in the Sanctuary
- Leave the service during the invitation to Christian Discipleship. At this moment, people are making a public confession to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and/or joining the church. This is the most crucial moment of the service.
- Leave before the Benediction is given but remain and receive God's final blessings.

Love – The Greatest Gift of All John 3:16 – Tells the Story

For God – the greatest Giver

so loved – the greatest motive

the world - the greatest need

that He gave – the greatest act

His only begotten Son – the greatest gift

that whosoever – the greatest invitation

believeth in Him – the greatest opportunity

should not perish – the greatest deliverance

but have everlasting life – the greatest joy and possession

CHURCH COVENANT THE BAPTIST AGREEMENT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers, and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto very good word and work; to guard each others' reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each others' joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Saviour in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

The Holy Bible

(Contains 66 Books)

- *The Old Testament*
(27 Books)

The Old Testament tells the history of the people of Israel. This history is based on their faith in the God of Israel and on their religious life as the people of God. The authors of these books wrote about what God had done for them as a people and how they were to worship and obey God in return.

- *The New Testament*
(39 Books)

The followers of Jesus Christ wrote the Books of the New Testament. These followers wanted others to know the Good News about Jesus Christ and the possibility of a “new” life available to them through his death and resurrection.

**The Bible is divided into books, the books into chapters, and the chapters into verses.*

AN EVERYDAY SURVIVAL KIT

Toothpick - To remind you to pick out the good qualities in others... Matt 7:1

Rubber band - To remind you to be flexible, things might not always go the way you want, but it will work out...Romans 8:28

Band Aid - To remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else's... Col 3:12-14

Eraser - To remind you that everyone makes mistakes, and it's okay... Gen 50:15-21

Chewing Gum - To remind you to stick with it, and you can accomplish anything with Jesus... Phil 4:13

Pencil - To remind you to list your blessings every day... Ephesians 1:3

Tea Bag - To remind you to relax daily and go over that list of God's blessings... 1 Thess 5:18

Mint - To remind you that you are worth a mint to your Heavenly Father... John 3:16-17

Candy Kiss - To remind you that everyone needs a Kiss or a Hug everyday... 1 John 4:7

Great Hope Baptist Church
Richmond, Virginia

New Membership Guidelines

The Church

1. An organized body of baptized believers, administering its affairs under the doctrine of Christ, united in the belief of what He has taught, agreeing together to do what He has commanded, and working with other like bodies in kingdom building
2. A unified body operating in compliance with the adopted Church Covenant and related guidelines.

The Mission (Matthew 28:19-20)

1. Proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior of souls.
2. Promote the saving of lost souls
3. Educate and further educate the saved (II Timothy 2:15)

The Structure

1. Jesus, the Head (Colossians 1:18ff)
2. Pastor & Ministers, the Christian/Spiritual Leaders (Ephesians 4:11)
3. Deacons, the Pastor's helpers (I Timothy 3)
4. Congregation, the organized body

The Membership

1. Attendance
 - A. Regular Worship (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - B. Bible Study (II Timothy 2:15)
 - C. Church School (II Timothy 2:15)
 - D. Quarterly Business Sessions
2. Support
 - A. Tithes (Malachi 3:10)
 - B. Talents (Matthew 25:15-29)
 - C. Time (Hebrews 10:23-25)