

Foundation of Hope

Peace of mind is probably the greatest gift that one can enjoy. What are some things that give you peace of mind? What are some things that steal that peace from you? Are you the source of peace of mind for someone in your life? Are you a thief of peace of mind from anyone?

Our hymn this month is **"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" #507**. This hymn/text by Edward Mote is found twice in our hymnals. This hymn uses the tune of *Solid Rock* and hymn #600 uses the *Melita* tune which is also used for the hymn *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. "*Melita*" is an archaic term for Malta, an ancient seafaring nation which was then a colony of the British Empire, and is now a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. It was the site of a shipwreck, mentioned in Acts of the Apostles (chapters 27–28), involving the Apostle Paul. Song composer William Bradbury (1816-1868) set Mote's lyrics to a simple, repetitious, and foot-stomping tune in 1863. Bradbury composed the melody during the American Civil War, and it appeared in his "Devotional Hymn and Tune Book" in 1864. The combination of Mote's powerful words and Bradbury's captivating tune created a hymn that would stand the test of time, inspiring generations of believers.

Mote's lyrics were inspired by Matthew 7:24-27. Just like the biblical text, the song reminds us of the peace, strength, and security found in building one's hope upon the Rock, Jesus Christ and the futility of all other grounds (physical and mental) which are sinking sand.

As we continue the month of July in 1 Timothy, it is good to remember that the reason for the letter to Timothy was to insure the foundational Truths of God were being taught, preserved, and purified within the church in Ephesus. There are many quotable verses from 1 Timothy but for July I am selecting verses 5 and 6 from chapter two for our hearts and minds this month. **1 Timothy 2:5-6 "For there is One God, and there is One Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."**

I hope this is a source of peace and security for your mind and soul. There is only One Mediator. That is great news! We do not need to spend our entire lives hunting and seeking for the Truth. There is One Truth, One Lord, One Master, One source of life and He has made Himself available as a free gift to all. In fact, not just a free gift but our ransom because all are born as hostages to sin, death, and the devil. We are children of wrath and yet God still loves us. And He sent Jesus as our rescuer from death. Jesus steps into world history and into our personal history. He then removes us from the physical, mental, and emotional sin cages we are bound within and after He sets us free He enters into that bondage and overcomes and destroys them. How? Because He is greater and stronger than ANYTHING that claims control or dominance over us. There is no one, no thing which He cannot defeat. Why? Because He made you and me and every one of our neighbors. And everything He made He loves and desires the best for. What? Life! He desires that life would thrive and be everlasting for all Good things that He has made and which are kept from corruption. Nothing evil or corrupted will withstand and survive the enforcement of His Truth and Justice. But thankfully His Word, such as in our Timothy verses, teach and remind us of His Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control which are demonstrated by His act of working between Righteous God and us wicked sinners for the sake of our purification and restoration back to fellowship with our Creator.

This testimony of Truth given at the proper time, when you were an enemy of God and under the wrath of His Righteous Judgment, has set you free from guilt, shame, and self-destruction. If you have accepted and understand this Good Truth, praise the LORD! If you wrestle with understanding, believing, and applying this in your life, reach out to God or one of His faithful disciples for prayer and teaching. John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The Freedom of Christ is Peace of Mind. The Freedom of Christ is the most precious gift we can receive and the best we can give to others. Luke 7:50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."