

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 679

May 18, 2022

“Run With Endurance the Race Set Before Us”

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” Hebrews 12:1

We live in horse country. Moore County is known for being home to horses. We have the Carolina Horse Park and the Harness Track in Pinehurst, as well as many horse training arenas throughout the area. So when the first Saturday in May comes around, interest peaks around here. It's the run for the roses, the Kentucky Derby, baby!!! This year's Derby was no different. And the result, well, epic!

Here are some excerpts from the reporting from the Associated Press on the 2022 Kentucky Derby:

Anyone anticipating a return to normalcy in the Kentucky Derby got a dose of outrageousness Saturday when an 80-1 long shot came charging up the rail to win at Churchill Downs.

With 4-1 favorite Epicenter and Zandon engaged in a duel at the front, Rich Strike stole the show with the second-biggest upset in the Derby's 148-year history.

The chestnut colt beat Epicenter by three-quarters of a length. Zandon finished another three-quarters of a length back in third.

"I about fell down in the paddock when he hit the wire," winning trainer Eric Reed said. "I about passed out." Rich Strike paid \$163.60. Only Donerail in 1913 had a higher payout, at \$184.90.

Rich Strike wasn't even in the Derby until Friday, when Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas scratched Ethereal Road, making room for the colt who had just two previous wins in his career.

"We found out about 30 seconds before the deadline on Friday," Rich Strike owner Rick Dawson said. "It put us in the race, and, really, we always felt if we just got in we've got a shot." Rich Strike ran 1¼ miles in 2:02.61.

Reed endured a tragedy five years ago when he lost nearly two dozen horses in a barn fire at his training center in Lexington, Kentucky. He briefly considered the fire might be a signal for him to leave the sport.

Reed had no argument with the bettors ignoring his colt, whose victory surely inspired little guys everywhere. "Small trainer, small rider, small stable, he should have been 80-1," Reed said. "And so anybody that's in this business, lightning can strike."

Rich Strike was purchased by Dawson, who races as RED TR-Racing LLC, for \$30,000 last fall when the colt was entered in a low-level claiming race by his former owner. Rich Strike earned \$1.86 million for his first stakes victory.

WOW! Rich Strike gave a pretty great return on the investment for his new owner.

I read another article that said the race announcer did not even acknowledge Rich Strike was near the front nor had passed Epicenter and Zandon until he cross the finish line ahead of them. I guess he did not believe an 80 to 1 odds horse could/would win the Kentucky Derby. Well, he did!!! Oh, and by the way, if you put a \$2 bet down on Rich Strike, you won \$163 plus some change. Not bad.

I thought about what Reed said, "Small trainer, small rider, small stable, he should have been 80-1," Reed said. "And so anybody that's in this business, lightning can strike." Rich Strike didn't know he was not suppose to win. Jockey Sonny Leon knew he was a long shot, but believed his horse could win. Sonny and Rich Strike ran their race and finished on top.

The Hebrews writer reminds us to **"...run with endurance the race that is set before us..." (vs.1)**. That is what we are suppose to do as believers in Jesus Christ. BUT, the Hebrews writer tells us something else that is very important in running this race. He says, **"...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2 - 3**

We sometimes feel the race is too difficult. We say, "My race is too hard and I am facing so much adversity. I just can't make it." But here this passage tell us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and reminds us that we are to keep our hold on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart. We can and will win this race leaving the world behind because of whose we are!!! We have an owner that has prepared us and provided the best training for this race set before us. God tells us to endure to the finish line and HE has control of everything else, because of what His Son, Jesus, has done for us.

As Rich Strike and his Jockey Sonny Leon focused only on the finish line, let us also keep our eyes on Jesus at ALL times and run with endurance the race set before us.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, May 18

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 19

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 22

Worship Team Practice @ 8:15 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, May 23

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 25

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer
@ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - May 22

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - May 22

Dave O'Dell

Communion Steward - May

Janice Worthington

Greeter - May 22

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - May 22

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 10:1 - 13
"Saved"



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry
Pull Top Canned Vegetables
We have a collection bin in the foyer

Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to help prepare meals for others.
See Christina Johnston with questions.

The Computer Lab

This Saturday, June 11th
@ 9:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

Wednesday Night Devotion & Prayer Tonight @ 7 PM

In person or by Zoom

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, May 28th
@ 1:00 p.m.

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, June 7th at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Quote of the Week

"Faith is the evidence of Divine adoption."

John Calvin

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Lori Estelle, Mark Drylie, Kyle Rohweder (Friend of Rich and Diane Williams), Chandi Haswell & family, Ken Guy (Lynn Joyner's brother-in-law), Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Renee Logan, Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brother), Becky Hale's mom in Wyoming, Gene & Becky Hale, The Baker family, Dave & Dot Geil, Joy Forrest's daughter Haley, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), Brian Adam's dad, our Military, our Missionaries, our Nation, and the world. If you have those you would like added to our prayer concerns, please email me those names.

Communion Change

The HOPE Session has approved serving Communion by Intinction and by individual pre-packaged cups. The table for the pre-packaged cups will be near the aisle and front row. The way you choose to partake of communion is at your discretion.

Worship Team Ministry

We are excited to start growing our Worship Team, as well as give those in our congregation who would like to use their musical gifts the opportunity to serve the Body and glorify the Lord. If this is something you would be interested in, please email Lori Estelle: stellargirl10@gmail.com

Pentecost RED

For years now, on Pentecost at HOPE, we have worn RED.

Pentecost Sunday is June 5th.

Please plan to wear something RED that Sunday.

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org

www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh" in the search box)

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

May 22	Joshua	9
May 23	Joshua	10
May 24	Joshua	11
May 25	Joshua	12
May 26	Joshua	13
May 27	Joshua	14
May 28	Joshua	15