

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 688

July 20, 2022

“Sharing the Gospel is Relational”

“Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

I was online this past Monday recording a resource video with three other Coastal Presbytery leaders that will be uploaded to the Coastal website. Pastor Chris, from Forest Hills EPC in Wilson, quoted the verse above stating it had become one of his favorite New Testament verses. I agree, it is a great verse.

Let me give a little context to what is going on in this letter. Acts 17:1 - 9 gives us the background of Paul’s planting the church in Thessalonica. While there may have been some Jewish converts in the church, the Thessalonica church was mainly made up of Gentile converts. Acts 17:10 tells us that Paul and Silas had to flee from Thessalonica to Berea. By the time Paul makes it to Corinth, Silas and Timothy meet him there. Paul writes this letter back to the church who, at this point, were left with little external support in the midst of the persecution they faced. The letter was a letter of encouragement to remain faithful in their daily work for the gospel, remain confident, giving instructions for godly living, and to give assurance concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns.

You see Paul developing relationships throughout his ministry. Every church planted, every letter written was to develop relationships for the sake of the gospel. We see Paul saying in the verse above that he not only gave them all his knowledge of the gospel, but gave all of himself to them. Now look at verses 11 - 14 of 1 Thessalonians 2.

“... just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in

Judea,...” Paul finished this chapter in verse 20 by saying: **“For you are our glory and joy.”** Paul is all about building relationship for the sake of the gospel. As he builds relationships he shares the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ so that people will come to a believing faith in Jesus.

In May I offered a book titled “Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations” to the families of HOPE and I asked you to read through it. I have shared from the book during our adult Sunday school time. This coming Sunday, I plan to discuss the book some more and give a role play scene on how to use the evangelism tool called the three circles to share your faith, your story.

You see, sharing the gospel is relational. Very few respond by demanding or scaring them to faith in Jesus. But many will respond by at least listening to what you have to say if they believe you care for them. You have to have a heart for the gospel. Non-Christians know whether you are just giving them some spiel or whether you really care and believe what you are saying to them.

Jesus was very relational. He stuck up a conversation with the woman at the well, with Zacchaeus in a tree, with Nicodemus at night, with the Rich man who questioned and the list goes on and on. There were those who Jesus encountered that wanted no relationship with Him and He understood that. He told His disciples He sent out to proclaim the Good News and that if the people were not receptive, then shake the dust from your feet and continue on to the next town, the next opportunity.

Many of you hear me say just about every week at HOPE during the benediction that we need to look for those opportunities every week to share Christ. It can look differently each time, but if the opportunity is opened, start relationally, that is, with a kind heart, good spirit, and truthful care for their soul. I would encourage you to begin to pray about this, if you haven’t already, on allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you in turning everyday conversations into gospel conversations.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh - Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, June 20

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

Friday, July 22

Worship Team Practice @ 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 23

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 24

Worship Team Practice @ 8:30 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, July 25

Staff Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 27

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

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship Food - July 24

Church Will Provide

Soundboard - July 24

Sherif Mikhael

Communion Steward - July

Lynn Joyner

Greeter - July 24

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer for the Nursery - July 24

Terry Duffell

This Sunday
Scripture Text and Sermon

Romans 12:9 - 21

"Sincere Love!"



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food
Pantry **Boxed Cereal**
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.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Sunday School

This Sunday for all ages

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

(Zoom Link available for those who
cannot meet in person)

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, July 23
@ 1:00 p.m. meeting at the church

MEN of HOPE

Tuesday, August 2 at 7 p.m.
A ZOOM link for the meeting will
be sent out beforehand.
Join us!

Prayer Requests:

Covid -19, Mark Drylie, Chandi Haswell &
family, Revill & Mary Lane Mallory, Evelyn
Doby, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams,
Diane 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.

The Computer Lab Simple Technology Assistant

HELP Wanted

Please go to our website
and read the information on
serving in The Saturday
Computer Lab. There is a
form there to fill out if
interested. We need 6 to 8
volunteers when we
resume in September to
fulfill this outreach ministry
of HOPE Church Raleigh

**Next Session Meeting
Sunday, August 14
@ 12 p.m.**

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

Jul 24	1 Samuel	23
Jul 25	1 Samuel	24
Jul 26	1 Samuel	25
Jul 27	1 Samuel	26
Jul 28	1 Samuel	27
Jul 29	1 Samuel	28
Jul 30	1 Samuel	29

Quote of the Week

**"The law works fear and wrath;
grace works hope and mercy."**

Martin Luther