

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 727

April 19, 2023

“The Didache—Early Christian Instruction”

I mentioned The Didache in my sermon this past Sunday and after worship, almost everyone said they had never heard of it. So I thought I would share just a little background and excerpts from it. I have included some notes from J.B. Lightfoot's writings on The Didache.

The Didache meaning “Teaching” is the short name of a Christian manual compiled before 300 AD. The full title is “The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles.” Some also refer to it as “The Apostolic Father's Teachings”. Some Christians thought The Didache was inspired, but the church rejected it when making the final decision on which books to include in the New Testament. The Didache contained instructions for Christian groups; and its statement of belief may be the first written catechism. It has four parts: the first is the “Two Ways, the Way of Life and the Way of Death;” the second explains how to perform rituals such as baptism, fasting, and Communion; the third covers ministry and how to deal with traveling teachers; the fourth part is a reminder that Jesus is coming again, with quotations from several New Testament passages which exhort Christians to live godly lives and prepare for “that day.” (*Lightfoot*)

(Some Excerpts from the Didache)

“Baptism”: This is how you should baptize: Having recited all these things, [the first half of the Teaching, “The Way of Life and the Way of Death”] baptize in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, in running water. If you do not have running water, then baptize in still water. The water should be cold, but if you do not have cold water, then use warm. If you have neither, then just pour water on the head three times in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both the one who is baptized and the one who baptizes should fast beforehand, along with any others who are able, the one that is baptized being told to fast for a day or two.

Prayer and Fasting: Your fasting should not be like the hypocrites'. They fast on Monday and the Thursday: you should fast on the Wednesday and Friday. You should not pray like the hypocrites either, but as the Lord commanded in his Gospel: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors; Do not lead us into trial, but deliver us from the evil one; for yours is the power and the glory for ever and ever. Say this prayer three times a day.

The Eucharist: This is how you should give thanks at the Eucharist: First, for the cup: We give you thanks, our Father, for the holy vine of your son David which you revealed to us through your son Jesus. Yours is the glory for ever and ever. Then for the broken bread: We give you thanks, our Father, for the life and knowledge which you revealed to us through your son Jesus. Yours is the glory for ever and ever. As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains and being gathered together became one, so may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom For yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. No one should eat or drink this Eucharistic thanksgiving, unless they that have been baptized into the name of the Lord. As the Lord has said, “Do not give what is holy to the dogs.” After everyone has had enough, thank God with these words: We give you thanks, Holy Father, for your holy name, which you have revealed to us through your son Jesus. Yours is the

glory for ever and ever. Almighty Lord, you created all things for your name's sake, and gave food and drink to people for their enjoyment, so that they would thank you, but you gave us spiritual food and drink and eternal life through your son. Above all we thank you that you are powerful Yours is the glory for ever and ever. Remember your Church, Lord. Deliver it from all evil, perfect it in your love, sanctify it and gather it together from the four winds into your kingdom which you have prepared for it. Yours is the glory for ever and ever. May grace come and may this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David. If any man is holy, let him come; if any man is not, let him repent. Maranatha. Amen..

Sunday Worship: On the Lord's day, come together, break bread and give thanks, having first confessed your sins, so that your sacrifice may be pure. Anyone who has a dispute with another, must not join your assembly until they have been reconciled, so that your sacrifice may not be defiled, for this is the sacrifice spoken of by the Lord: “In every place and at every time offer me a pure sacrifice; for I am a great king,” says the Lord, “and My name is wonderful among the nations.”

Wrongdoers and Doing Right: And reprove one another, not in anger but in peace, as the Gospel tells you. If one of you does wrong to another, do not speak a word to him until he repents. Your prayers, your giving to the poor and all your deeds, should be done in accordance with the Gospel of our Lord.

The End Times: Be careful how you live. Do not let your lamps be quenched, nor your loins ungirdled, but be ready, for you do not know the hour our Lord will come. Meet together frequently, pursuing what is good for your souls, for your whole time as a believer will come to nothing if you are found to be imperfect at the end time. In the last days the false prophets and corrupters shall multiply, and the sheep will be turned into wolves, and love will be turned into hate. As lawlessness increases, they will persecute and betray and hate one another. And then the deceiver of the world will appear as a Son of God, performing signs and wonders, and the earth will be delivered into his hands. He will do things more unholy than any since the beginning of the world. All of humanity shall come to the fire of testing, and many will fall and perish. But all who endure in their faith shall be saved from the Curse. Then the signs of the truth will appear: firstly a rift in the heavens, then the sound of a trumpet, and thirdly the resurrection of the dead. But not all will rise, because, as it is said, ‘The Lord shall come, and all his saints with him’. Then the world will see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.

These are only a few teachings/excerpts from The Didache. As you can see, it is a very interesting document for the early church. While not scripture as noted, many of the teachings are still held to in the church today. At Sunday Worship, The Lord's Day, we gather. At HOPE Church Raleigh, we have a confession section in our worship. We participate in The Lord's Supper every time we worship, which are all a part of the early church, 1st Century church worship. I wanted to share for informational purposes with you, so that you can be better informed the next time you hear, “The Didache”.

Blessings my friends,
Pastor Marty - HOPE Church Raleigh

Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 19

Wednesday Night Supper, Study, & Prayer @ 6:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 20

Worship Team Practice @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 22

Women of HOPE @ 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 23

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time @ 11:50 a.m.

Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Session Meeting @ 12:00 p.m.

Monday, April 24

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - April 23

Church is Providing

ProPresenter - April 23

Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - April 23

Jane Davis

Live Steaming - April 23

Diane Williams

Communion April

Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - April 23

Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - April 23

Terry Duffell

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Matthew 6:19 - 24

"What Are We Focused On?"

Daily Devotions

For This Coming Week

Apr 23	Psalm	119:97 - 128
Apr 24	Psalm	119:129 - 152
Apr 25	Psalm	119:153 - 176
Apr 26	Psalm	120 - 124
Apr 27	Psalm	125 - 128
Apr 28	Psalm	129 - 132
Apr 29	Psalm	133 - 135



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Boxed Cereal

We have a collection bin in the foyer

HOPE Meal Ministry

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

The Computer Lab

May 13 @ 9:00 a.m.

TLC Devotion

Today, April 26 @ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, April 22
@ 1:00 p.m.

Family Fun Fridays

Be on Watch for more Information!

Over the Summer Months we are
going to have some Family Fun
Fridays. It will be a time to have some
fun and invite some family friends
to join you.

Next Confirmation Class

This Sunday, May 7

@ 12:15 p.m.

Quote of the Week

"There is no divine attribute more
wonderful than the patience
of God."

John Benton

Prayer Requests:

Revill & Mary Lane Mallory,, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Diane Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Dave & Dot Geil, 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.

Wednesday Night Ministries

Wednesday Night Supper, Bible Study, & Prayer April 19

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.

Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

HOPE4Kids @ 7 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

A Zoom Link will be available for those who cannot join us in person starting at 7 p.m.

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Bread, & Dessert

Pastor Marty is teaching on the Seven "I AM" statements in John's Gospel

Senior Recognition Sunday May 14th During Worship

Our Seniors

Cameron Drylie

Morgan Jackson

Benjamin Pierce

Emma Duffell

*No Sunday school that day
Extended Fellowship*

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Worship Time: 9:30 AM

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