

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 741

July 26, 2023

“The Desire to Obey”

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the Lord your God gives you.”

I had a great childhood. I loved my mom and dad and my sister. I had a great extended family that lived close around me. I had close friends that lived near by. I could hunt and fish. I could swim in the three ponds on the farm anytime. I rode horses/ponies, played with the cows and pigs (I really did). I learned how to farm the crops we grew. Yes, hard work, but I didn't know any better. It was what you did when you lived and grew up in a rural farming community. We didn't have a lot, but we lack for nothing.

As I many of you know my mom died when I was 15 years old. That was in February of 1973. In April of that year I gave my life to the Lord. He became my Lord, my Savior and my life changed.

Yes, I loved my parents in those growing years, but my obedience was more related to not wishing to be punished than it was because of my love for them. They set the rules and if I obeyed, I was not punished. But if I failed to obey, punishment came my way. It is one of the ways we teach our children right from wrong.

But after I gave my life to the Lord, things changed. I obeyed because it was the right thing to do. It wasn't to avoid punishment, it was because I saw that disobedience was a sin. My Lord said I was to honor, love, and obey my parents and I tried my best to live into that daily. I didn't make it every day, but most days I did.

Likewise, my love of my heavenly Father causes me to have the inward desire to obey Him. To do what is right by His standards, His commands, His Holy Word. I do

not want to disappointment my heavenly Father because I love Him. My desire is to keep my focus on Him and not me. My desire is to obey out of love.

John 8:42 “Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.”

John 16:27 “...for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.”

1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

The Lord wants us to love Him enough to obey without hesitation. There should be no hesitation to love and serve Him. We have to frequently ask ourselves, “Is there any area of my life currently out of alignment with God's Word?” We have to be willing to deal with it, ask God His for forgiveness and to give us, by the power of His Spirit, the willingness to change. That leads to contentment and peace. It does not mean that everything is great or all the things around us are going right or perfect. It simply means our love of the Father, our desire to obey Him and to live a righteous life, satisfies our soul. Our life, lived in obedience to God, is filled with peace that passes understanding. I love Him because He first loved me.

Are we following a set of rules or living in obedience because of our love of our Father? Praise Him today for the joy that comes from living for Him in obedience.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, July 26

PRISM Pastors Meeting @ 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study &
Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 27

No Worship Team Practice Tonight

Sunday, July 30

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.

Monday, July 31

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.



Outreach Ministries

“Food of the Month”

for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry

Canned Meats

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

Will not meet again until September

TLC Devotion

Today, Wednesday, July 26
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

Saturday, August 12
@ 1:00 p.m.

Family Fun Fridays Next:

Friday - August 4
Movie Night @ 6:30 PM
Showing:

**The Chronicles of Narnia:
Prince Caspian**

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 Bible Study, & Prayer July 26

Devotion & Prayer Time
Tonight @ 7:00 p.m.

Study of the Book of Jonah
Bring your Bibles

A Zoom Link will be available for
those who cannot meet in person.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - July 30
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - July 30
Emma Duffell

Soundboard - July 30
Ben Pierce

Live Streaming - July 30
Al Floyd

Communion July
Sandra Pierce

Greeter - July 30
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - July 30
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

Ruth 1:19 - 22

"Living Well in a Broken
World - Acknowledgment
Begins the Healing"

Confirmation Class

Coming Dates

Sunday, August 6 @ 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 20 @ 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation Retreat

Friday, August 25th through
Saturday, August 26th

Next Session Meeting

Sunday, August 13 @ 12:00 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

July	30	Isaiah 36
July	31	Isaiah 37
Aug	1	Isaiah 38
Aug	2	Isaiah 39
Aug	3	Isaiah 40
Aug	4	Isaiah 41
Aug	5	Isaiah 42

Quote of the Week

*"The world is a FLATTERING
enemy. Whom it kisses,
it betrays!"*

Thomas Watson