

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP . GROW . SERVE .

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 742

August 2, 2023

“Let’s Hit the Mark!”

Each week as I work in my office at church I watch dozens of cars a day pull into our parking lot from Green Road only to make a circle around the parking lot to head back out to Green Road. Once on it, they turn into the business park that is beside the church.

I’m willing to bet (if I were to bet) that each one’s GPS has them turning into our address. Many of you have heard the voice “You have arrived at your destination. Turn right here.” And they turn in only to find that they have “missed the mark”. To hit their mark, their destination, they have to make a U-turn.

I was watching the parade of cars today, one right after the other, drive in and make the U-turn to drive back out and said, “Well, another one missed the mark!”

As a Christian, this is a familiar sentence. We often use it as a definition for “sin”. It might surprise you, but sin was a term used in archery over the centuries meaning “to miss the mark.” If an archer missed the target, the instructor would said, “You sinned”. So Christians began to use “to miss the mark” as a definition of Biblical sin.

When someone sins they miss the mark that God has set forth in Scripture for us to live a moral, righteous life by His standards. Scriptures in Old and New Testament tell us what is sinful towards God, wrong for us to practice in our lives. Unfortunately, many don’t like some of God’s laws. So they break them, ignore them, have no use for them. This is sin.

The Christian definition of sin is purposely disobeying the rules of God (1 John 3:4). The Bible says in **Romans 1:18-22**, **"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his**

eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...". God commands us to follow His moral law and has given every human a conscience for intuitively knowing right from wrong.

The U-turn comes into to play when you actually want to hit your mark. To hit the mark, you have to turn from sin, which is the meaning of repentance. Repentance is to turn around and go the opposite direction. **Luke 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish". Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit". Romans 10:9 "...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved..."**

I don’t know about you, but sometimes my GPS is off. I miss the mark. I sin against God. It is in that very moment that the Holy Spirit convicts me and I have to confess and repent, turn around from sin to hit the mark God has called me to or my relationship with Him is not whole. None of us want a fractured relationship with the Lord.

I constantly have a reminder right before me every week as cars pull into our parking lot at the church only to turn around. Hopefully, this has been a reminder for you as you walk with Christ to hit His mark!!!

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, August 2

Wednesday Night Bible Study &
Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 3

Worship Team Practice @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday, August 4

Family Fun Friday Movie Night
@ 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 6

Worship Team Practice @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School @ 11:10 a.m.
Confirmation @ 12:15 p.m.

Monday, August 7

Staff Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - August 6
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - August 6
Emma Duffell

Soundboard - August 6
Emma Duffell

Live Streaming - August 6
Franklin Johnston

Communion - August
Elizabeth Floyd

Greeter - August 6
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - August 6
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday

Ruth 2:1 - 17

"Living Well in a Broken
World - Fields of Grace"



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

Wednesday, August 23
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

WOMEN of HOPE

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

Family Fun Fridays Next:

This 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 August 2

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.

Confirmation Class

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

Next Session Meeting

Sunday, August 13 @ 12:00 p.m.

Congregational Training Event
Saturday, August 19 @ 9 a.m.

All Invited to attend.

**Please let me know if you plan to
attend so that we have planned
lunch with you included.**

HOPE Church Raleigh

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
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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

Aug 6	Isaiah 43
Aug 7	Isaiah 44
Aug 8	Isaiah 45
Aug 9	Isaiah 46
Aug 10	Isaiah 47
Aug 11	Isaiah 48
Aug 12	Isaiah 49

Quote of the Week

*"Do not let your hearts be
troubled. Trust in God; trust
also in me."*

Jesus Christ