

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 766

January 17, 2024

“The Sovereignty of God”

There is a story recorded in English history about one of their warships. Sovereign of the Seas, a seventeenth-century British warship, was ordered to be built by King Charles the First in 1634 and it launched in 1637. The Sovereign of the Seas was the most beautiful ship, at that time, in the British navy. She was also the most powerful, boasting 102 cannons. The goal for Sovereign warship was to manifest her name: to rule the oceans. She did that until 1696 when she caught fire and burned down to the waterline. The Sovereign of the Seas was no more, and also, no longer sovereign.

God has told us over and over in His Word that He is always and forever Sovereign. Just a couple of verses to indicate that:

“The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.” Psalm 103:19

“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14).

The Sovereign of the Seas warship of England’s dominion only lasted a few years and it was over. We have seen earthly Kings, Pharaohs, Emperors and even Presidents serve, only to die and relinquish their power and sovereignty over the people. And temporary or partial sovereignty is not really sovereignty at all. One is either sovereign or not.

When the Bible speaks of God’s sovereignty, it makes clear that He is sovereign over all. God’s sovereignty is complete and never-ending.

Do we believe this? I look at the 21st Century church and wonder if we truly believe in the sovereignty of God. As a believer in Jesus, saved, sanctified, headed toward eternal life with Him, do we believe that Father/Son/Holy Spirit is in control of all things? Is our faith such, that when the Bible tells us not to worry, don’t be anxious, that we can really turn those things over to our sovereign God? I’m not sure.

I hear Christians express their worry about many things, both personally and church related. What is going to happen _____? And you can fill in the blank.

Satan loves for us to worry. Satan loves for us to be consumed by worry and wonder if God is listening to us, if

He hears our plea. Satan wants to distract you from the understanding that God is sovereign and that He will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

We are in the middle of our Revitalization plan for HOPE Church Raleigh. We have just begun the 50-Days to Vitality. Some may wonder if God is in this? Can God work with us through this? And the answers are yes and yes. God is sovereign and works His wonders through His people for His church. It is a wonderful plan and works well when we respond to Him.

Can God bring revitalization to HOPE? Absolutely. Can God bring growth, both spiritually and numerically to HOPE? Absolutely. But He wants to use us, our gifts, our talents, our positions, our relationships to do it.

We worry about the church we love. What is next? What if this happens or doesn’t happen? I’ve heard it now for months. So do we believe God is sovereign? If so, are we living into His sovereignty?

Church, never let the troubles of this world, or your life, or the church, cause you to worry. God has got this. Please know that God is going to use you and me, and in fact others, to move HOPE Church into His future will and purpose. It is not, sit back and do nothing, but be engaged and usable by God. Put your faith in the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth. **“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” Matthew 28:18**

R. C. Sproul once said, “If God is not sovereign, then God is not God.”

The Sovereign of the Seas warship may have burned in 1696 and no longer was sovereign over the waters, but I can tell you, God is still sovereign and working in wonderful ways beyond our comprehension to fulfill all He has planned for His church and the future. Thank you Jesus.

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

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, January 17

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

Thursday, January 18

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 21

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:30 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.
Worship Leader Search Team @ 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Wednesday, January 24

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

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic
Providence EPC, Angier, NC

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - January 21
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - January 21
Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - January 21
Jane Davis

Live Streaming - January 21
Diane Williams

Communion - January
Sandra Pierce

Greeter - January 21
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - January 21
Volunteer Needed

**Scripture Text and Sermon
This Sunday
Romans 12:1 - 2
"Transformed Living"**



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.

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each Month
@ 11:00 a.m.

Spiritual Growth Ministries

Women of HOPE

Saturday, January 27
@ 1:00 p.m.

Meeting @ Panera Bread

Wednesday Night Supper, Study & Prayer Resumes

Tonight - Study: Exodus
Supper @ 6:15 p.m.
Study @ 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

Menu:

Stew Beef & Rice, Green Lima
Beans, Rolls & Dessert

Prayer Requests:

Reville & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie Baldwin, Donna Williams, Carol & Colin (Kathy Herriman's Sister & Brother-in-law), Loretta (Sandi Underwood's daughter), Joan Summers, Shelley, Diane Mack's Sister-in-law, Jordan & Cinnamon (son and daughter of Lynn Joyner's family members), Tommy and Billy Lanphere (Lynn Joyner's brothers), Gene & Becky Hale, Ellie Tappan, Dave & Dot Geil, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin (Sandra Pierce's dad and stepmom), 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.

HOPE - REBOOT 50 - Days to Vitality

Everyday a Devotion Everyday a Prayer

If you did not get the email with the 50-Days to Vitality document, please let Pastor Marty know.

**Put on your Calendar
Ash Wednesday Service
February 14th
@ 7:00 p.m.
Supper Served
@ 6:15 p.m.**

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
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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

Jan. 21	Jonah	1
Jan. 22	Jonah	2
Jan. 23	Jonah	3
Jan. 24	Jonah	4
Jan. 25	Micah	1
Jan. 26	Micah	2
Jan. 27	Micah	3

Quote of the Week

"God is at work, ready to transform our loneliness into a positive experience that...draws us into the very thing we long for: a closer, deeper, more satisfying relationship with Him and others."

Ruth Graham