

The Connection

Messages of Hope



HOPE
CHURCH | RALEIGH
WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 770

February 14, 2024

“GOOD VS EVIL”

As we know, God created everything. In the beginning, everything was good. But, since God gave us free will, evil came into our world.

I believe that we all know without a doubt that God is GOOD and Satan is evil.

In Genesis, Chapter 1, verses 1 – 31, God created the heavens, the earth, light and darkness, evening and morning, the water and the land, plants and trees, living creatures, birds, sea monsters, animals that would live on the ground and lastly, God created man. In these verses, we read seven times that after creating an item, God saw what He had created, was GOOD. Everything that God created was and is good.

In Genesis, Chapter 3, verse 1, we learn of the “serpent” who was NOT good. He was and is evil. The serpent tricked the woman, she listened, and sin was born.

In the Old Testament the word evil is used 469 times. In the New Testament the word evil is used 123 times. Evil is the absence of good. God created the good in our world. God also gave us FREE WILL. God also has given us the choice to choose between good and not good (evil). Satan is aware of our free will and is always lingering nearby waiting for an opportunity to strike.

There are 40 Bible verses that talk about evil.

There are 655 verses in 57 books of the Bible that talk about good.

LOVE is GOOD. LOVE comes from God. Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. God showed his love for us, when he sent his only Son into the world that through him we might have eternal life in Heaven with God.

The most important commandment is: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second most important commandment is, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:36-39

I firmly believe that there is more GOOD, more love, in the world than we realize right now. In many instances, people who do good are quiet, humble and do not brag about the good that they do. Evil on the other hand tends to be loud and sometimes proud, therefore people hear about evil deeds that have been done. I know that unfortunately, there is much evil in our world. Satan is busier now than ever before.

As Christians, what should we be doing?

PRAYING and asking our Lord for guidance, and protection. We need to stay in the Word, staying close to our Lord and Savior. He will guide us and protect us. He is always with us, waiting for us to reach out to Him. We must remember that God doesn't always answer our prayers when and how we want Him to. He is our protector, our creator, our faithful maker, our savior. He knows our future and He knows what is best for us. There are times that we must learn a lesson. It is difficult to see that while we are going through an unpleasant situation, but it never ceases to amaze me when I look back and can see that God had a better plan.

I have a friend who has a magnet on her refrigerator that says, “WE PLAN, GOD LAUGHS”. How true that is.

I have also learned that no matter what I am going through, no matter how difficult the situation is, I need to count my blessings. When I take the time to look around, there is always someone who is dealing with a more difficult situation. At that moment, I stop praying about my situation and pray for the other person.

Maybe it is because of the 24-7 constant availability of news, we are aware of the amount of evil in our world now more than ever before. I used to be glued to the news. I stay away from it as much as I can now. I stay informed but am not glued to it like I used to be. Why? It is depressing and it gets me frustrated. I recently heard this: “Turn the news off and PRAY!” talk about wise words!

Several Elders, Pastor Marty and I attended the last EPC Presbytery meeting that was held in Angier on Jan 26 and 27. We had the privilege of praying with and listening to Pastor Andrew Brunson. Pastor Brunson is the Missionary and Pastor that was arrested and held prisoner in a jail in Turkey for 2 years.

His sermon focused on his faith, how it was tested during the first year and how it was built back up during his second year in prison. Pastor Brunson and his wife, Norine, both grew up as children of missionaries, and they both are missionaries to this day. They had been missionaries in Turkey for 25 years when they were arrested. Pastor Brunson has written a book called, “God's Hostage”. If you have not read it, I highly recommend it.

Pastor Brunson and his wife, Norine set an excellent example for us. They went through a very dark time, but it grew them closer to God. It grew their love for God and it has made their commitment to sharing Jesus with others, stronger than ever before.

There are many examples of loving and trusting God, for us to learn from, but I think the most powerful example of the power of love is looking at what Jesus did for each of us.

Jesus, who was sinless, perfect in every way, experienced the most painful, horrific death that has ever been recorded in history. Why did He do that? He did that for us. He did that for YOU and ME. He did that for all who accept Him as their savior. He did that so that we can be forgiven of our sins, so that we can go to Heaven after we leave this earth and be with God.

God asks us to share this GOOD NEWS with non-believers, to help build God's kingdom. If sharing the Good News is something that you struggle with, PRAY and ask our Lord to guide you, lead you, give you the words... and He will!

I hope this article has touched your heart. It touched mine as I wrote it.

With much love,
Donna Williams - Elder - HOPE Church Raleigh
Worship . Grow . Serve

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 14 Happy Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6:15 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 18

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 8:00 a.m.
Worship @ 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time @ 10:50 a.m.
Sunday school @ 11:10 a.m.

Wednesday, February 21

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



Outreach Ministries

"Food of the Month"

for the Raleigh Dream Center Food
Pantry

Individual Pop-Top Canned Meat
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, February 24
@ 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Supper

Supper @ 6:15 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Menu:

Beef Roast & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Rolls & Dessert

Pray for an Opportunity

HOPE family - Start now praying that
God would lead you to invite
someone(s) to join you for Easter
Worship. Pray specifically for Him to
lay on your heart who to ask, when to
ask, and then do it. I'm asking each
one in our HOPE family to do this.
Pray - asking and expecting God to
act. ***Easter is March 31st***

Prayer Requests:

Reville & Mary Lane Mallory, Jamie
Baldwin, Ron Clifton, 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

*Join us for our Sunday
school time following
Fellowship for Discussion
on our study this week.*

Helping Hands Ministries

Fellowship - February 18
Church is Providing

ProPresenter - February 18
Elizabeth Floyd

Soundboard - February 18

Live Streaming - February 18
Al Floyd

Communion - February
Dianne Reinoso

Greeter - February 18
Joan Rollinson

Nursery Volunteer - February 18
Volunteer Needed

Scripture Text and Sermon This Sunday

Acts 1:6 - 11
"The Great Witness"

Ash Wednesday Service

TONIGHT

@ 7:00 p.m.
Supper Served
@ 6:15 p.m.

New Address for:

Janice Worthington
2438 Albemarle Ct.
Winston Salem, NC 27106

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

Feb 18	Zechariah	7
Feb 19	Zechariah	8
Feb 20	Zechariah	9
Feb 21	Zechariah	10
Feb 22	Zechariah	11
Feb 23	Zechariah	12
Feb 24	Zechariah	13

Quote of the Week

**"Your life as a Christian should
make non believers question their
disbelief in God."**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer