

# The Connection

## Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 824

February 26, 2025

## “Spiritual Discipline 4 - Evangelism ”

In Reformed theology, evangelism is considered a critical aspect of the life of a believer, grounded deeply in Scripture. The act of evangelizing is seen as both a command from Christ and an outworking of God's sovereign grace. Here's a biblical exploration of why evangelism is important in the life of a believer from a Reformed perspective:

### 1. The Great Commission: A Divine Mandate

Reformed theology emphasizes the centrality of God's Word and Christ's authority in all aspects of life. Evangelism is rooted in Christ's clear mandate to His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. This is often referred to as the *Great Commission*, and it encapsulates the purpose of the church in this age.

- **Matthew 28:18-20** – Jesus, having been given all authority in heaven and on earth, commands His followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all that He has commanded.

This command is not optional but is a direct call for believers to actively participate in spreading the gospel. Reformed theology stresses that this command is for all Christians, not just evangelists or pastors. Every believer is tasked with proclaiming the message of salvation.

### 2. Evangelism as the Means of Salvation

In Reformed thought, salvation is solely by God's grace through faith, a work initiated by God and not by human effort (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, God has chosen to use human agents to carry out His saving work by proclaiming the gospel. Evangelism is viewed as a means through which God calls His elect to salvation.

- **Romans 10:13-15** – "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"

This passage emphasizes that the gospel must be proclaimed for people to hear, believe, and be saved. Reformed theology holds that God's election is certain, but evangelism is the means God has ordained for people to come to know the truth and be saved.

### 3. God's Glory and Sovereignty

Evangelism is not just about saving souls; it is primarily about magnifying the glory of God. Reformed theology underscores that the ultimate purpose of all things, including evangelism, is to bring glory to God. When the gospel is preached and people come to faith, it reflects God's sovereign grace and power in action.

- **Romans 11:36** – "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen." Evangelism, then, is an expression of worship and obedience to God's will. It is an act of surrender to God's sovereign plan for the world, where believers participate in His divine mission of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

### 4. The Role of the Church in Evangelism

In Reformed thought, the local church plays an essential role in the life of the believer. Evangelism is not just an individual responsibility but a corporate calling of the church. The church is seen as the primary means of fellowship, worship, teaching, and outreach.

- **Acts 2:42-47** – The early church is described as devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. As they lived in community, they also spread the message of Christ to those around them.

The local church, through its members, is called to be a witness to the gospel both locally and globally. This collective effort helps believers grow in their faith while reaching out to others with the hope of the gospel.

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, February 26

Supper, Study and Prayer

Supper @ 6pm

Bible Study @ 7pm

Prayer @ 7:45pm

Thursday, February 27

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 2

Worship Team Run Through

@ 8:00 a.m.

Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 5

Wednesday Night Supper @ 6pm

Study & Prayer @ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 6

Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00 p.m.

Helping Hands for

MARCH 2, 2024

ProPresenter

*Bill Joyner*

Soundboard

Live Streaming

*Franklin Johnston*

Communion

*Elizabeth Floyd*

Greeter

*Diane Mack*

Scripture Text and Sermon

This Coming Sunday

Spiritual Disciplines for the

Christian Life:

“Service”

John 13:12-16

1 Peter 4:10

Prophecies O.T.

Revealed....

N.T.

Feb 23 Rom 3:23-24

Feb 24 Lev 23; 36-37

Feb 25 John 7:37

Feb 26 Num 9:12

Feb 27 John 19:31-36

Feb 28 Num 21:9

## GROW

Women of HOPE

Saturdays at 10a.m. at HOPE

3/22/25

Time Management: How Do You  
Do It ALL

Wednesday Night

Supper, Study, and Prayer

Supper @ 6:00 pm

*Email Pastor your attendance*

Bible Study @ 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Time @ 7:45 p.m.

“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.

## SERVE

TLC Devotion

4th Wednesday each month

@ 11:00 a.m.

5124 Departure Dr # 101, Raleigh

“God sent someone to share the  
message of salvation in Christ with  
you.

He sends you now to share that  
unchangeable message with...”

Prayer Requests:

Dave Rendall, Dale Herriman, Gene & Becky Hale, Sam and Rachael, Krishana, Joan Rollinson, Ron Clifton, Will Floyd's Fiancé's Mother: Jennifer, Jerry & Alice Kinard, Dianne Reinoso, Janice Worthington, Cindy (Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchens (Positive Cancer), Pastor Search Committee, Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Ebo (Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children, Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family, Donna Williams & Family, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H), Patty Moyer's son Brandon, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi U), Joan Summers, Shelley Riggelman (Bruce), Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.), Ellie Tappan, Carlyle and Cynthia Franklin, our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS, Missionaries, our Nation.

## UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday, March 8  
From 9am to 1pm

The Navigators

Will Meet to Discuss

“Developing a Picture of a New  
Testament Disciple”

UPCOMING

WOMEN OF HOPE

Saturdays at 10 a.m. at HOPE

3/22/25

Time Management: How Do You Do It  
ALL

4/12/25

It's never too late to make things right  
4/26/25

Why do you call one day good and  
another day bad?

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)

## 5. Evangelism as a Response to God's Grace

In Reformed theology, evangelism is also seen as a natural response to God's grace. Believers, having been shown mercy and grace by God through Christ, are compelled to share that message with others. This is a life of gratitude for the salvation they have received.

- **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."

The love of Christ motivates believers to reach out to others. Evangelism becomes not just a duty but a response of love, gratitude, and desire to share the same grace with others.

## 6. The Eternal Perspective of Evangelism

Evangelism holds eternal significance in Reformed theology. The act of sharing the gospel is tied to the eternal destiny of individuals. The doctrine of **eternal election** teaches that God has chosen His people before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4), and evangelism is part of God's unfolding plan in bringing His elect to salvation.

- **2 Timothy 2:10** – "Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

The eternal perspective provides motivation for believers to persevere in evangelism, knowing that their efforts have lasting, eternal significance as they participate in God's redemptive plan.

### Conclusion:

In Reformed theology, evangelism is indispensable for the believer because it fulfills the Great Commission, is the means by which God calls His elect to salvation, brings glory to God, serves as a response to God's grace, and has eternal significance. Evangelism is not merely a duty but a joyful and purposeful engagement in God's work to spread the gospel and see lives transformed for His glory. Every believer is called to be an active participant in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, whether in their immediate context or globally.