

# The Connection



**HOPE**  
**CHURCH | RALEIGH**  
• A Congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—EPC •  
**WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.**

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 882

April 14, 2026

*Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.*

(rf. [1 Jn 2:18–20](#) NASB)

As many of you know, we have been studying the Church and the Last Days on Wednesday nights. It continues to be a very vibrant, interactive time as we address those things important to the study of the Last Things (or Eschatology). Apparently, there is more interest in the Last Days according to Scripture than in previous years. We are all hoping that Jesus Christ will return very soon to bring time and this world to a righteous end. Then again, Christians have had the same hope since Jesus first left this earth. We know He will come again in the Father's perfect time which may be today or 10,000 years from now. Only He is privy to that information.

In any case, the question about the Antichrist has always been a part of the discussion of the Last Days. Dispensationalism teaches that the Antichrist is yet to come. Many scholars within the Amillennial, Historic Premillennial and Postmillennial camps believe the Antichrist has already come and gone (i.e. Emperor Nero who burned Christians as torches to light the way into Rome). Regardless of past or future, the Apostle John in his first epistle shares a startling truth with all followers of Christ, that "*many antichrists have appeared*", meaning that our focus should not just be on one. The spirit of antichrist is prevalent over the centuries.

According to John, those who possess the spirit of antichrist have formerly professed their faith in Christ, have been at least in church, if not a member of a church and have for a time belonged to the family of faith ([vs. 19](#)). These "antichrists" believe, practice and represent all that stands in stark contrast to the teachings of Jesus. They live a lie while still trying to convince the Christian community of the reality of their personal faith and belief in the Scriptures so as to use the naïve and trusting for their own ends and goals.

In deference to the esteemed apostle, there truly have been "*many antichrists*" over the centuries. From world leaders like Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini to cult leaders like David Koresh and Jim Jones, they all saw themselves as saviors of their people and messiah to their masses. They portrayed themselves as a Jesus but one who believed and practiced evil, rather than good. The result of their "ministry" was death and destruction, each one respectively meeting a harsh and cruel end. The danger that Christians must heed is that this spirit of antichrist still lives. John's words to his initial readers were one of warning so that Christians would not fall prey to well-presented, apparently believing, yet spiritually bankrupt individuals who want to use the followers of Christ for their own personal goals and gain.

Remember, bank tellers can know and determine counterfeit bills by continually handling the authentic, real ones. By the same token, Christians are to be well-versed in the Word, wise in His Spirit and ready to uphold truth in the face of error and evil, never to be naïve and easily manipulated. We are called to be "*shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves*" (rf. [Matt. 10:16](#) NASB). No one who possesses the "*Holy One*" (that is, the Holy Spirit") ([vs. 20](#)) should be gullible enough to fall for the spirit of antichrist whenever it shows up.

As we focus ourselves in growing and maturing spiritually, our time in the Scriptures will fortify us so that we will not be taken in by the lies of those possessing "*the spirit of antichrist*". Our lives will also prove to be a strong antidote for the darkness that the spirit of antichrist tries to achieve. If we hold close to Jesus and His Word, our light and lives will be a beacon and a hope in contrast to the works, ways and words of the servants of the Enemy, the true origin of the "*spirit of antichrist*".

*Pastor Chris*

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 15th

Supper at 6:15 pm

At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the Last Days, followed by Prayer

Sunday, April 19th

Worship Team Practice

@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am

11:15 am Fellowship

11:30 am Sunday School/Pastor's AfterChat

12 noon Regular Session meeting

Wednesday, April 22nd

Supper at 6:15 pm

At 7 pm the Study of the Church and the Last Days, followed by Prayer

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

### Women of HOPE

Meetings generally at HOPE on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10 am to Noon.

Next Meeting: April 25th at HOPE Church (with Bible study —See note below)

### Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

#### Cereals

The collection bin is in the foyer

## Prayer Requests:

The Ernest Mbeng family, Jordan Stevens, Kathy Herriman, Gene and Becky Hale, Erin's parents & brother, Burton, Pastor Chris & Lori King, Sandi Underwood family, Donna (Joan's friend), Patty Moyer & son, Brandon, Jerry Kinard, Alice Kinard (transplant possibilities), Tom & Donna Williams, Ron Clifton, Phil Parton, Krishana, Sam, Rachel & children, Joan Rollinson, Dianne Reinoso, Cindy, Barbara (stroke), HOPE Children & Youth ministries, Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho, Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, Mallory family, Carol and Colin, Tommy, Skip, Loretta, Joan Summers, Janice Worthington, Donna Abel, Pastor Marty & Terry Duffell, Laura Bradshaw (stroke recovery), Tom Klein, future plans & growth (spiritual & numerical) for HOPE Church Raleigh!

## Helping Hands Ministries for April 19, 2026

### Live Streaming

Ramsey Mallory

### Soundboard

Rich Williams

### ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

### Communion Preparation

Lynn Joyner

### Nursery

Elizabeth Floyd & Lynn Joyner

### Scripture Reading and Communion

#### Assistant

Diane Williams

### Prayer Support

Franklin Johnston

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts... (rf. **Mal 3:10** MEV)

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### TLC Devotion

On Wed. April 29th at 11 am @ TLC

### HOPE Meal Ministry

Take a meal from the freezer if needed for you or someone else.

### Next Sunday's Sermon:

Faith, Obedience and Generosity (Part Two)  
(rf. Mal. 3:10-12)  
Pastor Chris King

To prepare for next Sunday, click on the link and be blessed!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRfcehP0SLU&list=RDtRfcehP0SLU&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRfcehP0SLU&list=RDtRfcehP0SLU&start_radio=1)

### SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers  
Sound Board Volunteers  
Nursery Helpers

## Giving to the Ministry of HOPE:

Online via QR Code



Or on our website:

[www.hopechurchraleigh.org](http://www.hopechurchraleigh.org)

or by check made out to:

“Hope Church Raleigh” and dropped in plate during Communion

*Let every man give according to the purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
(rf. **II Cor. 9:7** MEV)

### Saturday, April 25th, 2026 @ 10 am

Come join the Women of HOPE as they continue in their study based on the book,

***Becoming a Woman of Grace,***  
by Cynthia Heald

If interested, contact Alice Kinard for further details.



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