

The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 884

April 28, 2026

It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
(*cf. II Tim. 2:11-13 NASB*)

One of the biggest misconceptions regarding the Christian faith is that its inception in our lives and our continuance in it are fully dependent upon our own actions, will, motivations and attitudes. So many professed followers of Jesus believe that they themselves actually began this relationship with a “decision” they made. Whether or not they share it openly, there is an implicit acceptance of the premise that because they “accepted Jesus as their personal Savior”, they should be accorded at least a modicum of the credit for their own salvation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The above brief statement of faith as given by Paul to his younger protégé, Timothy, declares very clearly that every aspect of our salvation is attributed to and upheld by Almighty God. Our death in Christ (“*we died with Him*”), our life in Him (“*we will...live with Him*”), our perseverance in the faith (“*if we endure*”), our ruling with Him at the end of time (“*we will...reign with Him*”)—all these aspects of true salvation depend squarely on the goodness of God and not on anything within us.

However, one thing we can do that will have serious consequences is to deny Him, to truly turn our backs and faces from Him and not acknowledge Him as our sovereign and Savior. If we do this reprehensible thing, we deserve for God to deny us. As sinners by nature, we are living offences to His holiness. Left to ourselves we truly warrant the worst God could possibly throw at us.

Therefore, we who have experienced His great love and mercy should always and everyday give thanks and praise unto Him who has saved us and adopted us into His family. He has extended His grace, His unmerited favor, to us, desiring to draw us closer to Himself and to disclose to our hearts, minds and eyes the greatness of who He truly is. God is so much grander than our meager existence could ever fathom!

So loving, caring and compassionate is He toward His children that He will remain faithful to us even in those times when our faith fails to hold up under pressure. When we collapse under the weight of our circumstances and situations, He stays stalwart and becomes our strength to help us make it through the trial. To do anything else would be against His faithful and trustworthy nature.

Then, let us take to heart the truth of this shared statement of faith between Paul and Timothy. Let us recognize that we have experienced salvation, not because we chose Him, but because He initiated the process by Himself with no assistance from us. He has promised to keep us and to enable us to endure this life and its challenges. If we truly know Him salvifically, then we will never deny Him. If we do deny Him, then we have no ground with or true faith in Him since we would be denied by Him as well. However, He has also promised to be faithful to us when our faith fails and falls to the ground. He will keep His word and, because of that truth alone, we are forever safe in His loving arms and care.

Praise the Lord for His astounding and amazing grace to us! Amen.

Pastor Chris

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, April 29th

Supper at 6:15 pm

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

Sunday, May 3rd

Worship Team Practice

@ 8:30 am

Worship @ 10:00 am

11:15 am Fellowship

11:30 am Sunday School/

Pastor's AfterChat

Wednesday, May 6th

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: May 9th 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:

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 May 3, 2026

Live Streaming

Franklin Johnston

Soundboard

Bill Joyner

ProPresenter

Dianne Reinoso

Communion Preparation

Elizabeth Floyd

Nursery

Lynn Joyner/Donna Williams

Scripture Reading and Communion

Assistant

Elizabeth Floyd

Prayer Support

Rev. Dr. Jerry Kinard

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God. The Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
(rf. **Deut. 6:4-5** 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:

The Apostles Creed (Part Three)

(rf. Deut. 6:4-5)

Pastor Chris King

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sE5kEnitqE&list=RD9sE5kEnitqE&st_art_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

or by check made out to:

“Hope Church Raleigh” and dropped in plate during Communion

Ray and Ellen Clark of the Navigators are presently raising funds toward their new venture as full-time representatives of the Navigators. If you feel led to contribute to their cause, connect with Pastor Chris and he will share the details of how to do so.

Saturday, May 9th, 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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