

# The Connection



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

A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 886

May 12, 2026

*“For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now and never will. Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days. And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance. (rf. **Mk. 13:19-23** NASB)*

*Now, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and concerning our gathering together unto Him, we ask you not to let your mind be quickly shaken or be troubled, neither in spirit nor by word, nor by letter coming as though from us, as if the day of Christ is already here. Do not let anyone deceive you in any way. For that Day will not come unless a falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself as God. (rf. **II Thess. 2:1-4** MEV)*

If you have been not a part of our Wednesday Night Bible Study on the Church and the Last Days, you have been missing a very special time in God’s Word. We have recently progressed beyond the doctrine of the Church and have now moved into the realm of Eschatology (study of Last Things). We have studied much, especially in terms of the different views of how things are and will end.

One thing that we have learned is the importance of context, how not to bring to Scripture what you want it to say (i.e. eisegesis) but, rather, letting Scripture speak for itself in the context in which it was originally written and to its original audience (i.e. exegesis). This applies well to the two texts we have above.

The first one from Mark is usually understood from a Dispensationalist’ point of view, believing that Jesus is foretelling an event far into the future. However, that would have no direct bearing on his original hearers. What care would they have on something that would take place long after they were dead and gone? We know that Jesus never provided warning just for warning’s sake. There was purpose in every teaching of Christ. Therefore, He must have meant to warn the hearers of something imminent that would occur within their lifetimes. Indeed, He did. He was foreshadowing the coming of the Romans in 70 AD when they would sack Jerusalem, destroy the Temple (again), and remove Israel as a subject nation, leaving the Jews to disperse among the Gentiles. Thus, when Jesus talks about false prophets, false Christs, He is telling His followers not to be fooled even if “*signs and wonders*” are performed. He alone is the real Christ. He did not want His people to fall prey to a counterfeit.

The second passage from II Thessalonians is intended by Paul to be a warning to his readers. The Thessalonians wanted to know when Jesus would return to make things right and enter into judgment, ushering in His kingdom. Because of this intense desire on their part, they were easily led astray by false hopes and premonitions. The Apostle Paul admonished them against being deceived into thinking that Jesus would return very soon. Rather, Paul gave them some concrete cautionary signs that would need to be in place prior to Jesus’ Second Coming, namely the rise of the “*man of sin, the son of destruction* (perdition)”. This one would be filled to overflowing with the “spirit of antichrist”, setting himself up as a counterfeit to the one true Christ Jesus of Nazareth. He would be appealing in policy and person but would represent all that was opposite to what Jesus Himself stood for. So deceptive would he be that even Jesus’ followers could fall under his spell.

Bottom line: Jesus does not want His people to be gullible and easily led astray by those who would use faith as a means contrary to His teachings nor also for personal gain or aggrandizement. Christ wants His sheep to be well-versed in His Word, being able to rightly discern what is true and what is not. So, when those possessing the “spirit of antichrist” arise, His people will not be captivated by their words, policies or actions. Rather, they will be able to not only stand for what is right and good, but also, like their Savior, live out these truths before the unbelievers so that there would be a clear distinction between His Church and the world, the true Christ and the false ones.

*Pastor Chris*

# HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, May 13th

Supper at 6:15 pm

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

Sunday, May 17th

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, May 20th

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 23rd at HOPE Church (with Bible study —See note below)

### Raleigh Dream Center Food Pantry

“Food of the Month”

Cereals and Nonperishable Breakfast Foods

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 and Jimmy 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 17, 2026

### Live Streaming

Al Floyd

### Soundboard

Bill Joyner

### ProPresenter

Elizabeth Floyd

### Communion Preparation

Elizabeth Floyd

### Nursery

Lynn Joyner/Donna Williams

### Scripture Reading and Communion

### Assistant

Becky Hale

### Prayer Support

Donna Williams

Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonderful works in Your name?' But then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice evil.' (rf. Matt. 7:22-23 MEV)

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### TLC Devotion

On Wed. May 27th at 11 am

@ TLC

### HOPE Meal Ministry

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

Saturday, May 23rd, 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.

## 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

### Next Sunday's Sermon:

The Apostles Creed (Pt. 2)

(rf. Is. 6:1-9; Rev. 20:11-15)

Pastor Chris King

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nUTO4m9oA&list=RDd5nUTO4m9oA&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nUTO4m9oA&list=RDd5nUTO4m9oA&start_radio=1)

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals for Wednesday Night Suppers

Sound Board Volunteers

Nursery Helpers



HOPE Church Raleigh EPC

4911 Green Rd

Raleigh, NC 27616

919-508-6827

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

[www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh](https://www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh)

Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh

YouTube.com (type “HOPE Church Raleigh” in the search box)