

NEWSLETTER

RESURRECTION HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

(Abrahamic Faith)

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October 29, 2008

“TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?”

Today you can hear countless voices arguing that we can have, and ought to have, unbridled freedom, to do as we like. It is the “in thing” to choose self-expression, wherever that might lead. It is thought to be a hallmark of 21st century success that now “anything goes”. But is it really a success or a tragic failure?

New Morality – No Morality!

Many believe that just about everything can be justified in the sacred name of the new morality – which, in fact, is the same old immorality that has always existed, but with a different label attached to it. Today’s self-styled champions of emancipation – and there are many of them, arguing for freedom to do one thing or another – discuss things which they think are clever. But they are really far from being so.

From a human point of view, for example, it may be regarded as extremely “with it” to argue for easy access to so-called “designer drugs” – like the badly named “Ecstasy” tablets. But if they kill or cause mental damage, as studies suggest, that is an extremely silly freedom to want to be given.

From a Divine point of view the search for absolute freedom of action is even more serious. As God views such demands, they are an expressed desire to do things He considers wrong. They are not “special cases”. Doing such wrong things are what he regards as just common sins, and rotten selfish sins at that. For they not only start in self indulgence, they are to be indulged in regardless of the harm that might result to others.

Right and Wrong

In this age, more than ever before, we need to realize that some things do not, and never will, change. It should be one of the things written indelibly on our minds that some things stand fast –

- The will of the living God,
- The truth of God,
- God’s everlasting differentiation between right and wrong – that difference for which His Son Jesus Christ died.

The truth is that His standards are as binding upon each of us as they ever have been. They will remain so forever. For God’s standards never vary.

They are just the same despite all the changes that are now taking place in so many spheres of influence and activity.

These Divine standards, which are given us to save us from a lot of grief and sorrow, can influence and control our lives, if we will let them. We need to take the time to think things through, and read the Bible for ourselves.

God has a plan of redemption and salvation, found in these key passages – like Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:5 and I Peter 2:24. He prefers you to work these things out for yourself. That way they will have a lasting effect in re-orientating your life.

Seeing Yourself Afresh

Anyone who sets diligently about the task of examining himself or herself from God’s point of view, with the help of His Word, will be awakened to a moral consciousness. Soon he or she will have to face up to the fact that they are not as they ought to be.

The faith which lives, moves and has its being in God is the final realism. The Bible says that *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17)*. For God’s last word to us is *“His Son”*, the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3 and John 1:14).

Looking to Jesus

For the most part, life is a path of varied trials – it goes uphill and down dale, and is never entirely smooth or easy. It is not meant to be!

“Man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7).

These are considerations which are revealed by God Himself, in His Word, that are deliberately and lovingly shaped to lead us to look to Jesus for the freedom, life and happiness for which we long. He alone can show us the way to go, the only way to God. No wonder Jesus said: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).*

When some of his followers lost their way, the record says that they *“went back and walked with him no more” (John 6:66)*. Then Jesus asked the twelve who were the first to commit themselves to him, *“Do you also want to go away?” (v.67)* and Simon Peter answered, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v.68, 69).*

What or Who?

Notice what Peter asked before he made that remarkable confession. He did not say “to what shall we go?”, but *“to whom?”* What a world of difference there is between a set of teachings and a living Lord. For God has created people in such a way that we are moved more by people than by

things. Only a person can satisfy our deepest needs.

• **Lord, to whom shall we go?"**

Some have answered this question long ago. Others are still unsettled about it, and perhaps may have given the wrong answer or no answer at all, for the time being at least. There are vital considerations and truths which, sooner or later, will lead the honest seeker to look to Jesus for the life and happiness which is longed for.

Listen to these words of his, which have a timeless ring:

"I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

That is still his appeal to all who have ears to hear. The past can be blotted out, all of it. The heaviest and most shameful burden being borne now is not too heavy for Jesus to deal with, nor too shameful for him to take up in his pierced, royal hands and cast finally away. This is the glorious truth.

Jesus separates the sin from the sinner, and casts out the former, never the latter. He gets rid of the "what" not the "who"! For, as the King said to his disciples, in all ages – *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned"* (March 16:16).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Allison Anderson, Tyler Richardson, Cody/Judy Ritch, Jerald Brewer, Zerden Keller, Dolly Yount, Zachary Seagle, Helen McQuery, Fay Gentry, Dale Swartz, David Brewer, Susan Stine Bradley, Mitchell Raper, Bea Holden, Joan Rowe, Verlie Duncan, Dave Church, Coral Reeder, Vernon/Evelyn Clark family, John Beavers, Clarence/Florence Walker, Ed Smith family, Joshua Wheeler, Mary Monroe, Juanita English, Ruth Robinson, Eldridge Phillips, Shirley Helton, Christy Miller, Lt. Justin Smith, Chris/Melody/Bryce Corpening, Jeremy/Ashley Philyaw, Amelia/Daniel Corley, Shane McCracken, Shawn Tilger, John Phillips, national election, the Lord's SOON return.

Note: Please turn in the addresses to Becky Ritch of people that you add to our prayer list!



Our time falls back on Saturday, Nov. 1st. Don't forget to change your clocks back before you go to bed.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the church will be on Saturday, Nov. 1, 6:00 p.m. for their fellowship and bible study. Come and bring another.

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

The Official Board will also meet at 7:00 on Saturday to take care of the business of the church. All officials are asked to be in attendance.

GRACE HOLDEN CIRCLE MEETING

Ladies of the church will meet for the circle meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, the 2nd. Program leader is Melody Phillips, Prayer leader - Punkie Phillips. Officers will be elected for 2009. All ladies are invited to attend.



CHURCH COOKBOOK & FUND RAISER

Our cookbooks are available for sale at \$10.00 each. Please purchase for yourself, or as gifts. If each family would take 5 to sale to others it would greatly help to pay for our expenses. After that, the profits will go towards the church loan and projects of the Grace Holden Circle.

"TEACH THE CHILDREN" CHRISTMAS PLAY

Practice will begin Nov. 12th. Volunteers are needed to help build props, lights, etc., also adults and children to be characters in the play. Please speak to Marie Wood ASAP if you are willing to help.

YOUTH NEWS

- On Sunday, Nov. 16th, 4 p.m. the youth will gather to go on a visitation. Pray for a good uplifting experience for them and those they visit with.
- Our youth are making all efforts to raise money for the "Fields of Grace" activity room in the fellowship hall basement. Please support them monetarily and in prayer.
- Punkie Phillips is heading up a YARD SALE on Sat., Nov. 29th with proceeds going to the activity room project. Bring your items for the sale by Nov. 23rd, help to advertise and be a shopper at this sale.

FOOD PANTRY

The family of Charmaine McMinn was recently helped through the pantry. Remember to bring your items to keep it stocked.