

# **NEWSLETTER**

**February 2024**

## **RESURRECTION HOPE CHURCH OF GOD**

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Lenoir, NC 28645

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**Radio Programs:** *WJRI-Lenoir, NC (AM) 1340 & (FM) 100.5 at 9:00 am Sunday and WSKY-Asheville, NC 1230(AM) at 4:30 pm Sunday*

### ***What Was, Is, and Will Be***

Ephesians 2:1-10, 19-22

As human beings, we do well to remember from whence we came. More importantly, however, is where we are now and where we're headed; what is and what will be; who we are now and who we are destined to be, because of God's work through Christ. Our re-imaging through Christ, destines us for immortality.

Humanity outside of Christ needs redemption. We who are in Christ have recognized our need of redemption and have repented of our sin. We repent when we fall short of God's glory and honor. We are trusting God.

The spirit, or attitude of heart, that is now at work in the disobedient, (Ephesians 2:2), is the spirit of rebellion to Christ. We could call it an anti-Christ spirit. John wrote in the 1st century, that there were then many anti-Christ's at work. One of the things that an anti-Christ spirit does is to refuse to acknowledge that Jesus was begotten, born, that He came in the flesh, as a fully human being. As the Christ/Messiah, He had to be an anointed human being from the lineage of David. The Messiah was to be and had to be, anointed by God. God is the One who did the anointing. God authorized His Son to act on His behalf.

In the past, we lived to fulfill the desires of our fallenness as children of wrath, but now, because of God's mercy and love for us, we who were dead have been made alive. We could even call this the first resurrection, if we wanted to do so. We have been raised up with Christ by God and have been seated with Christ in the heavenly places, the spiritual realm.

This has occurred so that God may show the boundless riches of His kindness and grace toward us in and through Christ Jesus. The work underway in our lives is the activity of God for our benefit and for His glory and honor. God's plan involves us and our yielded hearts and lives!

In Ephesians 2:19-22, Paul writes that we are presently members of God's family. We are established upon the foundation of the apostles, the prophets, and upon Christ Jesus, Himself. God, through Christ is building His church and the power structures in place in this fallen world system shall not prevail against this construction project. The building is a temple, and we are the living stones that are being used. We are being built into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The book of Revelation uses many symbols and metaphors. Revelations 5:10 tells us that Jesus "has made" us to be a kingdom and priests unto our God. We are presently a kingdom, and we are priests. There is a right now and not yet fully realized reality of Kingdom life. The present is the time to come out of fallen Babylon, this fallen world system, and to come to God as a citizen of the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven. (Rev. 21:1,2,9-10)

A foretaste of the glory divine is the anointing and sealing of God's Spirit here and now. We collectively, as the Church universal, are the dwelling place of God through the Spirit. According to 1 Corinthians 15:28, God will ultimately be all in all. It's all about God. He is the source of life, love, and light. God is the only self-existent One.

James 3:17-18 lists evidence of spiritual wisdom in our lives. Spiritual wisdom is pure, peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and free of hypocrisy. Are we walking in God's wisdom as we grow to be spiritual people who are availing themselves of God's anointing?

Certainly, we choose what and whom to believe, and we must correctly interpret the doctrines essential to salvation, but we must be open to the possibility that regarding some interpretations, we may be wrong. This is not intended to sow doubt, but to promote uncompromising tolerance and faith in God. Spiritually mature Christians walk in the power of love, meekness, and humility.

Pastor Michael

## ***Not Forsaken***

Deuteronomy 31:8 tells us, *"The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."*

We should always keep our focus on the LORD. This world is a mess, but God has not forsaken us. He is with us and will guide us. We don't need to fear what is happening in our world, no matter how bad it may become. God will not forsake us. We can rest in this truth.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us in chapter 13 verse 5, that God said, *"I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"*. He goes on to say that because of God's faithfulness, we can confidently say, the Lord is our helper, and we will not be afraid of what anyone else could do to us (Hebrews 13:6).

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God's plans for us are good and not evil. His plans for us are to give us a future and a hope. The hope of eternal life when Jesus, God's only begotten Son, returns.

Deuteronomy 31:8 tells us, that we can place all our tomorrows in the LORD's hands. We don't know what tomorrow may bring, but God knows. God will be with us through all our tomorrows. He will be with us through the good and the bad times. He will never forsake us. God will see us through every storm in this life. As the old saying goes "You don't have to worry about tomorrow, because God is already there".

God promises that as we seek Him, we will find Him. 1 John 5:14 tells us that when we ask, according to God's will, He will answer us.. As Jesus fellowshiped with His Father, He learned God's will. He relied on God's guidance to know what to do and say.(John 12:49-50). For us to know God's will, we need to stay in fellowship with Him and study His Word.

We are to let God's Word direct our paths and let Him guide us through this life. As we spend time in the Word of God, we will learn more of God's character. This will help us to know God's will. It is God who enables us to know and follow His will through His empowering grace. We can see throughout the Gospels that Jesus knew the Scriptures well and was in continual fellowship with God.

Psalm 16:11a says, *"You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy"*. We see that it is God who *"will make known"* to us the *"path of life"*. We need to be in relationship with God for Him to make the *"path of life"* known to us and only in His *"presence is fullness of joy."*

Psalm 119:133 says, *"Direct my steps by Your Word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me."* We need God's Word to *"direct"* us. God's Word will shed light for us to see more clearly the plans He has for us. God's Word will help us through the trials and storms of this life. God's Word shows us that He will not forsake us and will always be with us. God's Word reminds us that as we *"hide"* it in our *"hearts"* it will become a part of us and help us to make wise choices and not sin against God. (Psalm 119:11).

We should make it a priority to study God's Word, to fellowship with Him, and abide in His presence. We should use the time God has given us to share His love, and to learn more ways to reflect His Son to all whom we meet. God desires us to know Him personally and for us to walk in the *"path of life"* that He makes known to us.

This world continues to reflect greed, pride, selfishness, and all kinds of evil, but God is with us. God has a plan to save all who would receive the gift of His Son. There will be a day when it will be too late to receive His gift. When Jesus, returns it will be too late. We must spread the good news now, to as many people as we can.

The LORD may graciously grant us another day, week, month or another year. Let's be grateful for each moment we have. Let's use our time to bring glory and honor to God. Let's use this time to live our lives reflecting God's love for all people. Let's use this time to share the good news of God's gift of His Son and the salvation that comes through Him. Let's use the time we have to show others that God doesn't forsake His children and that there is a way that they, too, can be His children.

Blessings,

Charity