

Message Notes

"Seeking the welfare of our city"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – *"Why do anything good at all?"*

A Look at Ephesians 2:1-10

Children of wrath?

(Eph 2:1-3)

But God...

(Eph 2:4-7)

Amazing Grace

(Eph 2:8-9)

Created to DO GOOD WORKS!

(Ephesians 2:10)

Jeremiah 29:11

An amazing verse!!

Does ANYONE know the context

The setting of Jeremiah 29:11

(Jeremiah 29:1-3)

Who brought us here?

(Jeremiah 29:4)

Might as well get comfortable

(Jeremiah 29:5-6)

Seek the welfare of the city....

(Jeremiah 29:7)

The lies that will all be "okay" soon

(Jeremiah 29:8-9)

God WILL bless and prosper us (however, not the way you may think)

(Jeremiah 29:10-14)

Interview with Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybak

Application - *"Where do we go from here?"*

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Jeremiah 29:1-14

¹This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. ²

This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) ³He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: ⁴"This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.

⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." ⁸Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have.

⁹"They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD. ¹⁰This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴"I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH WINTER SERMON SERIES:
SUNDAYS: JANUARY 27 - MARCH 30



**DON'T
WASTE
YOUR LIFE!**
LIVING LIFE TO THE VERY MAXIMUM!

Luke 9:24

“For whoever wants
to save his life
will lose it,
but whoever loses his life
for me
will save it.”

~ Jesus

What a BIG vision of God does for us

Hebrews 12:18-29

²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,
²⁹for our “God is a consuming fire.”





WORK HARD

because your
work matters to
God, to you, to
others and to
the way you
were created....

Wait a minute!

Isn't it true that a Christian
is saved by grace?

So then why are we talking about
how we live our lives?

Saved by Grace...

Saved by Grace...

Ephesians 2:1-10

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Saved by Grace...

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Ephesians 2:1-10

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Saved by Grace...

BUT - Created for works!!

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11



The Context of Jeremiah 29:11

The setting

Jeremiah 29:1-3

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It said:

The Context of Jeremiah 29:11

Who brought them there?

Jeremiah 29:1-14

⁴This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

The Context of Jeremiah 29:11

“Might as well get comfortable”

Jeremiah 29:1-14

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The Context of Jeremiah 29:11

“Seek the Welfare (Prosperity) of the city”

Jeremiah 29:1-14

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The Context of Jeremiah 29:11

The lies that it will all be “okay” soon

Jeremiah 29:1-14

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The Context of Jeremiah 29:11

God WILL bless and prosper

Jeremiah 29:1-14

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Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

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Acts 9:36

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.

Isn't that just for the people of Israel?

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

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And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Colossians 1:10

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

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2 Thessalonians 2:17

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

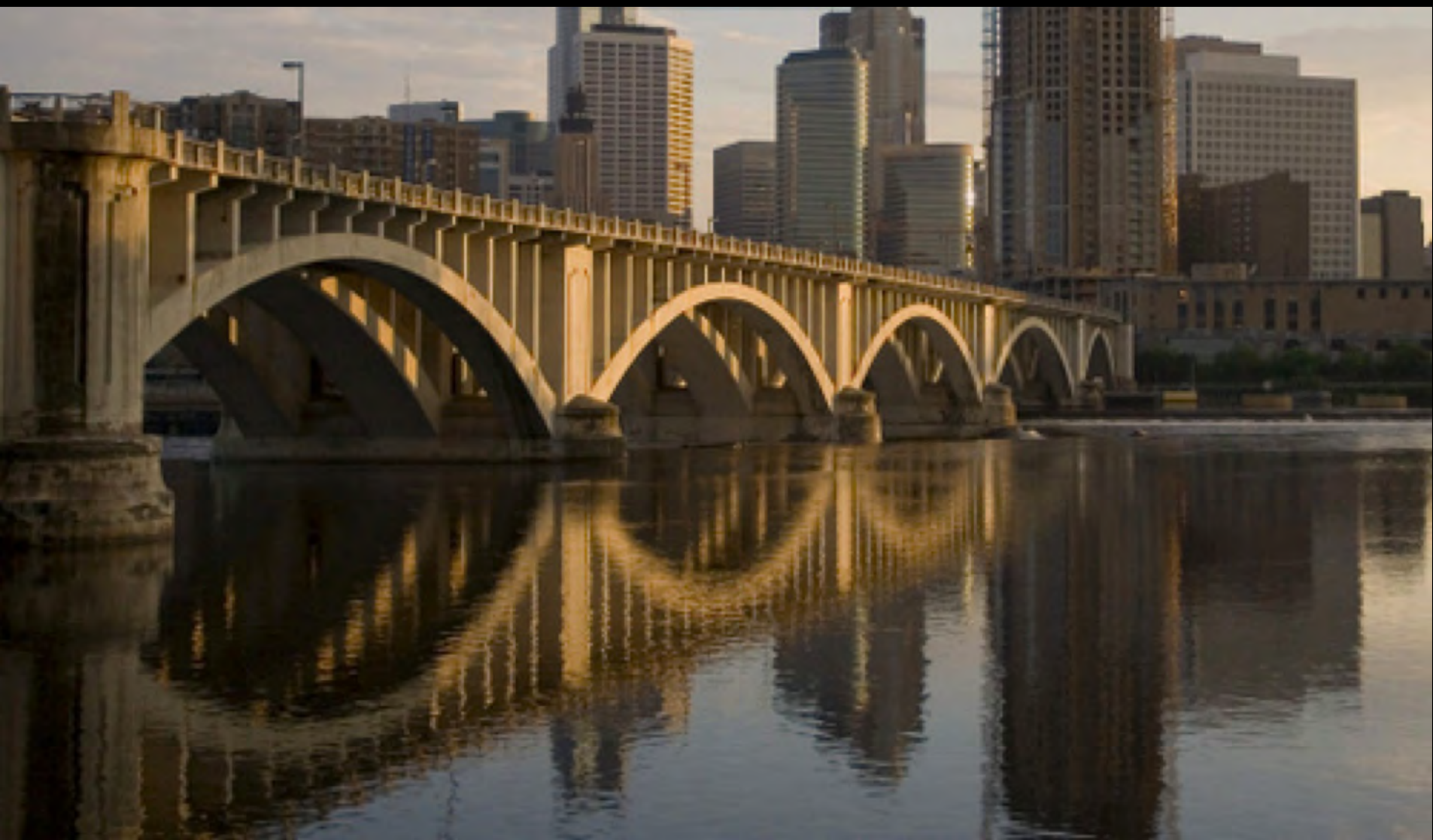
How can a church be a blessing
to the city?

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to the city?

Ask the Mayor!

“In your view, how could a church in the city of Minneapolis be involved to make a positive difference?”











- Feed My Starving Children
- Salvation Army Food Distribution
- Street Light Ministries
- World Relief (helping refugees move into their homes)
- New Life Family Services (crisis pregnancy centers)

- Food Drives
- Operation Hope - Grand Forks
- Operation Hope - Comfrey
- Operation Hope - Granite Falls
- Operation Hope - Appalachian Mountains (Kentucky Trip)
- Clothing Drives
- Working with local food shelves (CES)
- Angel Tree (Christmas Gifts to children whose parents are incarcerated)
- Good Neighbor Fellowship Ministry
- Benevolence Fund here at Hope to help those in need
- Missions trips (Mexico, China, etc.)
- Street Level Ministries
- Church Planting in new neighborhoods



**What's
Next?**



What's Next?

“Being a Blessing to our City”

Dessert and Presentations from City Partners

March 30th, 2008

7-9pm at Hope