

# Message Notes

"Our Greatest Need. Our Greatest Ally."

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the English Standard Version)

Introduction – "How long have you been coming to Hope?"

## REVIEW OF THE LAST 3 WEEKS

### What's the point of the church?

Ephesians 3:10-11

### What makes up a healthy local church?

1. Scriptural Authority (1 Timothy 3:4-15)
2. Corporate Worship (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)
3. Covenanted Community (Acts 2:42-47)
4. Biblical Leadership (Titus 1:5, also see Acts 20:13-38, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)
5. Mission (John 20:21)
6. Baptism and Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:16-20, also see 1 Cor. 11:17-22)

### What is the mission of the church?

1. Worship God
2. Be in Community (Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:19-25)
3. Live in such a way so that others might worship God and be in community (1 Peter 2:9-12)

## THIS WEEK

### Your Greatest NEED

A one time forever decision that gets repeated again and again and again and again (Romans 3:9-27a)

My Greatest Need (1 Peter 3:18)

### Your Greatest ALLY

A God-centered, Christ-following, Spirit-led, Bible-founded, worshipful, covenantal and missional people (1 Corinthians 12:14-15, 21, 24a-25)

Possible barriers to becoming allies with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds
4. 20-year-olds do a lot of things...church membership ain't one
5. Sin
6. Two words: church discipline
7. Can I do this and \_\_\_\_\_?
8. The membership process is not convenient or easily accessible

[http://www.hopecc.com/get\\_connected/membership.html](http://www.hopecc.com/get_connected/membership.html)

Application – Will you identify yourself with Christ and with his Bride - the Church?

Romans 3:9-27a

9What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." 14 "The venom of asps is under their lips." 15 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 16 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16in their paths are ruin and misery, 17and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it - 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

Ephesians 1:22-23

And [God the Father] put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

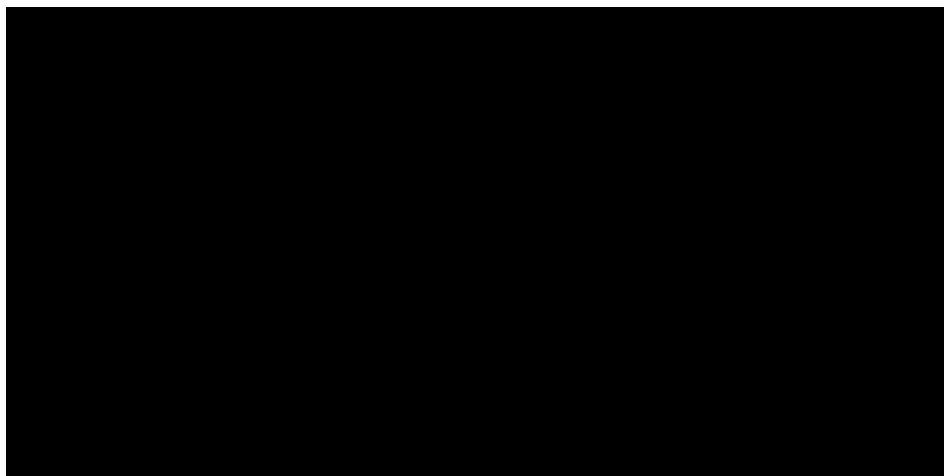
Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

1 Corinthians 12:14-15, 21, 24a-25

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body...The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...but God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.







**\*FREE\* Informational Lunch**  
**NEXT SUNDAY after 2nd service**

**How long have you  
been coming to Hope?**

A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, positioned within a large, arched opening of a dilapidated stone building. The building's walls are crumbling, and the arches are dark and shadowed. The woman is looking directly at the camera. The overall tone is somber and evocative.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking  
by making the church his bride?

A FOUR WEEK MESSAGE SERIES ON THE CHURCH

January 25th - February 15th, 2009

photo by Jim Blackie (cc - creative commons use)

# *What's the point of church?*

## **Ephesians 3:1-21**

<sup>7</sup> I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

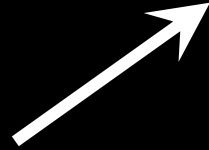
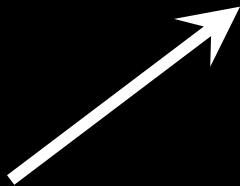
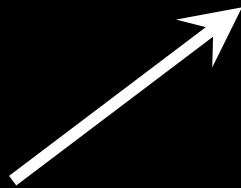
<sup>10</sup> His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. <sup>13</sup> I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

MISSIOLOGY  
(Ministry)

ECCLESIOLOGY  
(Church)

CHRISTOLOGY  
(Gospel)

MISSEO DEI  
(God's Mission)





*What's the point of church?*

To be a vehicle for God to show  
his glory to the universe!

# *What makes up a healthy local church?*



## *1. Scriptural Authority*

*(1 Tim. 3:14, 15)*

## *2. Corporate Worship*

*(1 Cor. 11:17-22)*

## *3. Covenanted Community*

*(Acts 2:42-47)*

## *4. Biblical Leadership*

*(Titus 1:5)*

## *5. Missional*

*(John 20:21)*

## *6. Baptism / Lord's Supper*

*(Matthew 28:16-20)*

# What is the mission of the church?

## 1 Peter 2:9-12

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

# Desired Hopester Qualities

Live as a worshipper of Jesus

Live in Community with one another

Live in such a way to be “among” people who  
are not yet worshippers

# Our Greatest NEED

Our Greatest NEED

GOD

Our Greatest NEED

GOD

through the Gospel

# Our Greatest NEED

God through the Gospel

Romans 3:9-27a

9What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16in their paths are ruin and misery, 17and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes



# Our Greatest NEED

God through the Gospel

Romans 3:9-27a

**21**But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – **22**the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25**whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. **26**It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. **27** Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.

# My ~~O~~ur Greatest NEED

When God confronted me this week.

# Behold your God!

“In order for the Christian gospel to be good news it must provide an all-satisfying and eternal gift that undeserving sinners can receive and enjoy...The critical question for our generation - and for every generation - is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ was not there?

~ John Piper, *God is the Gospel*, p. 14-15



# Behold your God!

“In order for the Christian gospel to be good news it must provide an all-satisfying and eternal gift that undeserving sinners can receive and enjoy...The critical question for our generation - and for every generation - is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ was not there?

~ John Piper, *God is the Gospel*, p. 14-15



# Behold your God!

God through the Gospel

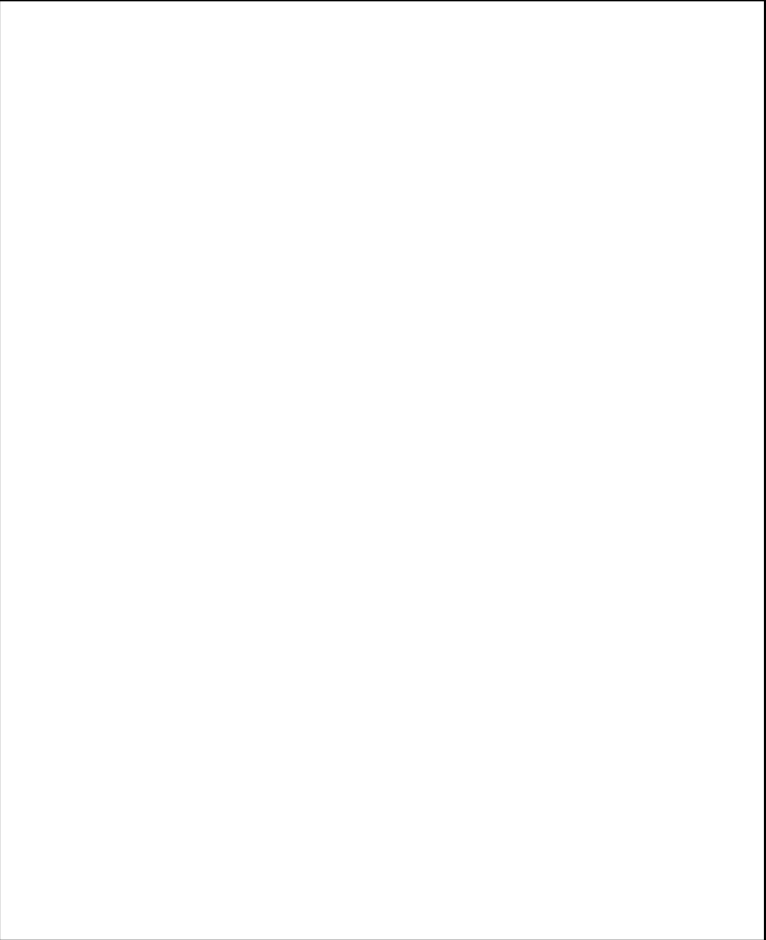
1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

**Our Greatest ALLY**

# Our Greatest ALLY

A God-centered, Christ-following, Spirit-led, Bible-founded,  
worshipful, covenantal and missional people



*“He who does not have  
the church as his  
mother does not have  
God as his Father.”*

*~ Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)*



# Our Greatest ALLY

A God-centered, Christ-following, Spirit-led, Bible-founded,  
worshipful, covenantal and missional people

Ephesians 1:22-23

And [God the Father] put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

# Our Greatest ALLY

A God-centered, Christ-following, Spirit-led, Bible-founded,  
worshipful, covenantal and missional people

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

# Our Greatest ALLY

A God-centered, Christ-following, Spirit-led, Bible-founded,  
worshipful, covenantal and missional people

1 Corinthians 12:14-15, 21, 24a-25

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body...The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...but God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

# Our Greatest ALLY

A God-centered, Christ-following, Spirit-led, Bible-founded,  
worshipful, covenantal and missional people

Covenantal Membership  
with Hope Community

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies

with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it

2. Got a deal about baptism

- Theological
- Availability
- Personal



Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds
4. 20-year-olds do a lot of things...church membership ain't one

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds
4. 20-year-olds do a lot of things...church membership ain't one
5. Sin

Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies  
with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds
4. 20-year-olds do a lot of things...church membership ain't one
5. Sin
6. Two words: church discipline

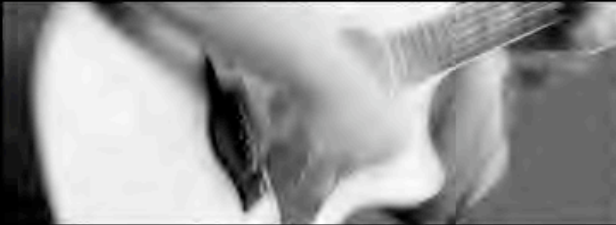

# Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds
4. 20-year-olds do a lot of things...church membership ain't one
5. Sin
6. Two words: church discipline
7. Can I do this and \_\_\_\_\_?

# Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies with the church through covenantal membership

1. Never heard about it
2. Got a deal about baptism
3. Don't know what tomorrow holds
4. 20-year-olds do a lot of things...church membership ain't one
5. Sin
6. Two words: church discipline
7. Can I do this and \_\_\_\_\_?
8. The membership process is not convenient or easily accessible

# Possible BARRIERS to becoming allies with the church through covenantal membership



HOME      GET CONNECTED      ABOUT US      SUNDAYS

### Covenantal Membership

*If you have questions about the membership process, contact Pastor Cor Chmielecki at [cor@hopecc.com](mailto:cor@hopecc.com).*

[New 2009 Covenantal Membership Process](#)

Also see [Hope's Constitution](#) for additional information.

707 10TH AVENUE SOUTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55415  
TEL: 612.378.8820 FAX: 612.378.5195 EMAIL: [HOPE@HOPECC.COM](mailto:HOPE@HOPECC.COM)

[http://www.hopecc.com/get\\_connected/membership.html](http://www.hopecc.com/get_connected/membership.html)

*Will you RIGHT NOW identify  
yourself with Christ?*



*Will you RIGHT NOW identify  
yourself with Christ?*

*Will you identify yourself with  
Christ's bride - the Church - through  
covenantal membership  
in a local church?*