

# GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church



Grace Christian Church  
1713 E. Sevier Avenue  
Kingsport, TN 37664  
(423) 247-2691

Dr. J. Edward Clevinger, Minister

April 2022  
Vol. 4, No. 4

[www.gracechristiankingsport.com](http://www.gracechristiankingsport.com)

## GROWING IN GRACE “Living Hope or Dead Hope?”

In his 1981 work, The Resurrection Factor, Josh McDowell writes, “The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone to a worldview that provides the perspective to all of life.” O, but where would we be without that perspective? From COVID beginning in 2019 to the specter of hyperinflation, food shortages, and world war in the present, the last three years offer little security or consolation to those whose hopes and dreams are vested in this world.

Even in the best of times, hopes and dreams anchored to the world are a delusion of false security. Indeed it has already been decreed that this fallen secular world order in which we live will ultimately and finally collapse in wreck and ruin. The Apostles Paul and John both declare that “this world is passing away” (I Cor. 7:31/I John 2:17). Yet so many never consider the reality of such until they realize the world’s failure to deliver or face the prospect of their own mortality.

Human mortality and a perishing world speak in tandem to the necessity of finding something bigger than life – yes, something that transcends the world. But not just any ‘something’ will do. To be sure, the only ‘something’ that offers victory is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Apostle Peter says, “We are born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (I Peter 1:3). Faith in the same brings that victory to life beginning here and now.

“Living hope” is the crying need of humanity for all time. The trials, troubles, and tribulations of these times are conveying an urgent reminder that tent stakes driven too deeply in the sod of this world consign life to the opposite of “living hope,” which John Piper calls “dead hope” (from “A Living Hope” – April 5, 2015, [desiringGod.com](http://desiringGod.com)). “Dead hope” is, in the end, all this world order has to offer. It’s the great tragedy of life without the rolled-away stone, the empty tomb, the vacant shroud, and the Risen Lord of Resurrection Sunday. So “living hope” or “dead hope?” That is the defining question of life. The answer determines whether life is a storyline of victory or tragedy. Moreover, the answer is synonymous with the presence or absence of faith in Jesus as the Risen and Living Lord.

As we continue GROWING IN GRACE together, let us embrace the Easter Season and every season of life with “living hope.” It is our sustaining power in a world where all the prompts and prods are toward “dead hope.” “Dead hope” never bills itself as such, but the truth of its futility gets revealed in crises – personal, national, and global. The cry goes forth for something bigger, better,

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