



New Hope Christian Church of Monroe

Our mission is to receive God's love freely that we might give His love graciously.



Church Newsletter

newhopechristianchurchofmonroe.org

April 2009

The Importance of the Resurrection

This Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, I thought it might be helpful to be reminded of the reasons that Christ's resurrection is so important. The word resurrect means to raise from the dead. This is exactly what happened over 2000 years ago when Jesus Christ broke the bondage of death and walked out of the tomb **alive**. For the Apostle Paul, the Christian faith either stands or falls on the resurrection – below are the three basic reasons:

Reason #1

Without the resurrection, Christ is still in the grave.

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised. (1 Corinthians 5:13)

This is a critical point within our faith – if Christ did not rise, then what use is there in following Him? He said that He would be killed and resurrected on the third day, (Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19) but **if** He wasn't, then how could anyone believe the rest of His teachings? If the Jewish leaders wanted to put an end to this whole *Jesus thing*, and they knew about His third day claim (Matthew 27:63), then all they had to do was show the body and it was done. But they didn't. If the body was still in the tomb, then why didn't they just show it to everyone and put an end to it? Without the resurrection, "not even Christ has been raised!"

Reason #2

Without the resurrection, the Bible must be a lie.

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. (1 Corinthians 15:14-16)

If the resurrection is not true, then none of the teachings of the Bible can be trusted. The writings of the apostle Paul and others are nothing more than fairy tales. Time and time again, we are told throughout the pages of Scripture about the resurrection of Christ. If the resurrection is not true, we should remove all of the various books that make reference to it: the four Gospel

accounts, the Book of Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philipians, 2 Timothy, Hebrews, 1 Peter, and the Book of Revelation. All of these tell of the resurrection of Christ; all of them testify of the power of God; all of them offer great hope to those who place their faith in the Risen Savior. The Bible is grounded in the resurrection. Without the resurrection, the Bible is just another book that is full of speculation and error.

Reason #3

Without the resurrection, we are still lost in sin.

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17)

Paul tells us that if the resurrection is not true, then Christians are to be most pitied of all people. If you take away the resurrection, you take away the very heart of the Christian faith. Every doctrine that we hold dear depends upon it being true. A dead Christ is powerless and thus His followers are powerless.

But Christ has indeed risen from the Grave!

But Jesus has indeed risen from the grave, and our resurrected Lord and Saviour is full of power and has made a way to bring sinful man back into a right relationship with God. Because Our Lord Jesus Christ died and conquered the power of death, He is able to remove the sins that separate us all from our Heavenly Father. Because of His victory over sin and death, He is able to justify you and I in the sight of our gracious God. This Easter, let each of us do our part to communicate to our family, friends, and colleagues the importance of the empty tomb so that they too might place their faith in the One that not even death could conquer.

Some additional scripture portions that will bless you are:
Acts 2:22-36 1 Cor. 15:1-22 Heb. 13:20-21 Rom. 8:31-39

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

***He is risen from the dead
and He is Lord!***

.... Attention Men!

Our days are often hectic, full of stress and responsibilities. Life's pressures can be intense. In addition, we often find ourselves facing temptations and choices that serve to strengthen our walk with Christ or weaken it. Let's be honest, you and I are not yet the mighty man of God that we want to be. That's why I believe that it is imperative for us to get together regularly in order to encourage one another, pray for one another, and sometimes to just blow off a little steam and have some fun.

Enough said.... On Saturday, April 25, let's plan to get together to work on this relationship thing we've been hearing about in church.

**Our first men's get-together will be
Saturday, April 25
Pastor Mike's home (2428 LaSalle Road)
9:00 AM for breakfast.**

After breakfast we will focus our attention on the topic of "Becoming a Man of God." It will be a discussion format with opportunities for all to participate.

By all means, feel free to invite someone to come with you. This will be a casual time, perfect for those who may not normally attend church.

I look forward to seeing you!
Pastor Mike

Saturday, May 9th!

Cook out and campfire at Pastor Mike & Dodi's

Things to bring: lawn chairs, a salad, desert or chips or soft drinks. Burgers and brats will be provided by Mike and Dodi. We will have a badminton net set up, and a horseshoe pit for those with a competitive spirit. And yes, feel free to invite guests.

May 9, 3:00 PM until...

In the event of rain, the date will be moved back one week.
More information will follow in the weeks ahead.

We need not set out in search for a friend... rather, we must simply set out to be the friend Christ modeled—anticipating the needs of others, wearing ourselves out at giving. Jesus died doing it. The rewards are infinite and joyous!

P. Benson

Mid-Week Fellowship

"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, ...with gladness and sincerity of heart." (Acts. 2:42, 46)

New Hope Christian Church will begin having mid-week Bible study and fellowship services Beginning on:

Thursday Evening, May 7

Steve and Jenny Bellmore will host this special time of fellowship in their home located at:

**50 East Vine Street in Monroe.
7:00 PM to 8:15 PM**

The easy thing to do will be to stay home and carry on with your normal routine... But remember, the things that are most important, like building strong relationships, often require moving out of our comfort zone.

We hope you will join us.

Things You Never Hear in Church...

Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!

Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!

Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over-time 25 minutes.

Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.

If you received this church Newsletter from a friend,
we hope reading it was a blessing for you.

**New Hope Christian Church of Monroe
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www.newhopechristianchurchofmonroe.org

**If you are looking for a church where people love
Jesus and love others we hope you will visit us.**