

Messages of Easter hope from local pastors



Moment of Crisis

Krisis is the Greek term for “decision” or “judgment.” It is where we get our English word *crisis*. But before coming over into the English language, Hippocrates used a Latinized version to describe that “turning point in a disease, that change which indicates recovery or death ... It is that decisive point in the progress of a disease ... point at which change must come, for better or worse.” He used that word to define that “crisis moment” in that sick person’s life, as their well-being hung in the balance at that particular moment in time.

There is almost a direct parallel with respect to the way Hippocrates understood the word *krisis*, and that of how the Bible speaks about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Mankind is sick with the disease of sin leading to death and hell. The gospel comes as the cure. The specific moment in time that a person is met with the gospel, becomes a *crisis moment*. There is an urgency about the matter. That person’s eternal destiny hangs in the balance. Will the person get better or worse? Will his afterlife consist of eternal torment under the wrath of God or eternal bliss in the presence of God? That all hinges on how that person responds at that decisive moment in time.

What is that message that can save a man from hell? The gospel of Jesus Christ! The good news of God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ – being born of a virgin, living a sinless life, and then dying on the cross. It is the powerful message which heralds the news that He did not stay dead. He rose from the grave on the third day in fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus conquered sin and death. He crushed the head of Satan. Then He triumphantly rose from the dead giving proof of His victory.

The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven where He now rules as King. He holds all authority in heaven and earth and commands all men everywhere to turn from their sins and put their faith in Him. All mankind is now commanded to bow the knee to the Lord Jesus Christ. To those who do, forgiveness of sins and eternal life is promised. To those who do not, eternal damnation.

Friends, today is a moment of crisis for you. You have been confronted with the gospel of Jesus Christ. He commands you to repent of your sins and put your faith in what He has done on behalf of sinners. The pope (nor his priests) cannot forgive you. Mary cannot intercede for you. Purgatory cannot cleanse you. Joseph Smith and Ellen G. White cannot help you. Buddha cannot assist you. Your good works and prayers do nothing for you. No one and nothing, but the Lord Jesus Christ, can save you from the wrath of God. Faith alone in Christ alone saves. Come to Him and be healed of your sickness. If you will not yield to Him at this *krisis*, understand

another is coming. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. None will escape that day of judgment. Come to Christ and live. *“Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Cor. 6:2).

Eric Schonbachler
Pastor, Lexington Reformed Baptist Church
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Breathes through you

The Easter season starts with dwelling on the resurrection appearances, and then moves back in the gospels to Jesus’ farewell speeches while simultaneously moving forward in the book of Acts as the gospel spreads throughout the lands. Each day we are called not only to look for the risen Christ’s presence deeper and deeper in our own lives, but also to ponder where the Spirit of the risen Christ might be calling us deeper into the world.

Easter Sunday, we gather with the disciples on that first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas, we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals, we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need. Part of the church’s ministry, then and now, is the praise of God. The psalms we read this season overflow with the praise and exaltation at what God has done. While we start this Resurrection Day at the empty tomb wondering with Mary, we end it with full-throated ALLELUIAIS in wonderment for what God is still doing among us and for God’s promised presence with us forever.

May the Spirit of the living Christ fill you with faith and trust, burn in you with the fire of love, enliven your life to live out the gospels as you are called by God, and breathe through you so others may see Jesus alive in you. The God of life, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless your journey today and always. Amen.

Come discover and walk with us; Sunday Service 10 am; Sunday School during worship, for children 3-12. All are welcome.

Hopeful Saints Ministry

“Are You Alive?”

Are you alive? To answer that you might reach for your wrist to check for a pulse. Hmm, yes, I feel a heartbeat, so I must be alive. Perhaps you would blink a few times, look around, feel the spring breeze on your face, squint in the sunshine and affirm, yes, I am alive.

We feel, we see, we hear, we believe we are alive. But is that really what it means to be alive? Is there more to being alive than just physiological processing taking place in our body? And what about when all those processes like digestion, the firing of neurons, and even the beating of your heart ceases? Are you dead? Or does your existence still continue?

In just a few short days, millions of people around the world will celebrate the life of one man, Jesus Christ. It is believed by those who celebrate that this man was executed by the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago and died. That would be a minor footnote in history, no one would probably even care, except that three days later this man rose from the dead. He came back to life again. Phenomenal! Stunning! Fantastic! So fantastic that many more cannot believe that this is actually true. But by believing you will be alive.

In a world plagued by hurt and pain, we are pressed to look to many things to help us feel alive. We might feel alive when we are in love, so we seek romance or romantic stories. We might feel alive when we don’t have to think about our troubles, so we use substances that numb us and help us forget (at least for a little while) those things that bother us. We might feel alive when we are productive and useful, so we get up and go to work. Achieving more, doing more, feeling more so that we might be alive.

The problem with romance and work or another other thing we might use to help us feel alive is that those things are temporary and limited. Romances cool. Careers end in retirement. Time runs out. There is really only one lasting solution to our dilemma. We need a life source that last, even beyond death.

The good news is there is such a solution. When Jesus rose from the dead, he proved that he has power over death. Because of Jesus death is dead. Through Jesus you have an opportunity to be alive forever. For those who believe and follow him, life changes. There’s no longer any need to worry because you will live forever. There’s no reason to chase a high or thrill because you already have everything in Jesus. Because of Jesus you are alive!

Have you ever experienced life in Jesus? Truly, it is a lifelong pursuit. You need other people who love Jesus to help you and encourage you and constantly remind you, you are alive in Jesus. Those people are the church. Would you consider this season either believing Jesus for the first time or resolving in your heart to reengage and become involved with a group of people who are alive in Jesus. Your life will never be the same. You will be alive!

Come worship with us on Easter morning at 10am March 31st!

560 Minor Street Heppner, OR 97836
Willow Creek Baptist Church
Tripp Finch

The Heart of Easter

With Easter quickly coming up, I felt it was important to draw us back into what the heart of Easter is truly about. In which in order to do that I would like to share this short story from Dr. Paul Chappell.

Dr. Chappell once told how, “A pastor in California was giving an invitation at the end of his Sunday morning message when a five-year old boy, sensing the invitation of the Holy Spirit came down the aisle. Not knowing if the boy was old enough to understand salvation, the pastor took him to his office and began to ask some theological questions. The more he questioned, the more confused the boy became. Finally, in exasperation, the little fellow stopped and innocently pleaded, “Pastor Patterson, in your message this morning you said that if I would come and ask Jesus to save me—He would! Now, did you really mean that or not?” The pastor said, “I didn’t ask him any more questions after that.” He helped the boy to respond to God’s invitation by inviting Jesus Christ to be his Savior.”

Now isn’t that exactly what Easter should be focused on? Jesus our beloved Lord and Savior went to the cross, took all our sins upon Himself, and died in our place and three days later He rose from the grave so that we could have life. He did this for two simple reasons. First, because He loves each and every one of us so much that He was unwilling to leave us to suffer the consequences of sin and death. Secondly, so that we could turn to Him in faith, be saved, and have a renewed and restored relationship with our Heavenly Father.

The boy in this short story saw that simple truth and so he responded in faith to Jesus. As we come to Easter let us not forget what Jesus has done for us all. As we come to Easter let us all set aside some time from all our fun family festivities in order to praise and remember Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Let us all be like the boy in this story and chooses to respond to Jesus and His freely offered salvation. For as Peter says in 1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Quentin Byers
Heppner Christian Church

**DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM**

Heppner Ranger District Offers Summer Job Opportunities for Local Youth

PENDLETON, Ore. (March 21, 2024)— The Heppner Ranger District is recruiting four to five students between 15 to 18 years of age for summer employment in the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Work can include removal of noxious weeds, fence removal, and construction, trail maintenance, meadow restoration, campground maintenance, slash piling, marking timber, removal of tubing from tree seedlings, and fire line construction around logged units on the Heppner Ranger District. The program will last six to eight weeks starting June 24, 2024. Youth will be paid 15 dollars per hour. No previous experience is required. No housing or transportation is provided. Applicants must live in the local area.

To apply, all interested candidates must complete and submit a signed application. Hardcopy applications can be picked up at the Heppner Ranger District and at local high schools. Additionally, the application is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/5fvw-fj85>. Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on April 15, 2024.

Completed applications

can be emailed to marcia.kemp@usda.gov or turned in to the Heppner Ranger District office via mail or hand delivery at 117 S Main St., Heppner, OR 97836, Monday thru Friday between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Applicants must: Be at least 15 years of age and not reach the age of 19 during the term of employment in the program.

Be a United States citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident.

Have a valid social security number or proof of application.

Obtain parental or legal guardian consent to enroll in the program.

Able to fulfill the essential function of assigned work with or without a reasonable accommodation.

Selections will be made based on a review of applications. All applicants will be notified by mail of their selection status no later than April 22, 2024.

For more information about the YCC program, please contact the Heppner Ranger District at 541-676-9187, extension 2100.

For more information about the Umatilla National Forest please visit www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla/.

Women’s Golf play day April 2nd

Attention willow creek women golfer; fun play day!! Please come join us for our first women’s golf play on April 2nd at 9am. Breakfast provided and scramble golf to follow. Welcome new golfers and current members. A fun day is planned on the Heppner

Willow Creek Golf Course. Current members will be meeting at 8:30 am prior to breakfast. Also, members please come and help spruce up the club house April 1st, Monday at 9am. For questions, please call Sharon at 541-980-2363 or Tiffany at 541-256-0205.



This single family home, spanning 1641 square feet, boasts a spacious dining room and living room along with a family room 3 bedrooms, 1.5 bathrooms and lots of storage. Situated in a peaceful neighborhood, it is conveniently located close to the swimming pool, high school, baseball park, and downtown area. The property sits on a large lot with street access, with lots of parking and also features a shop. Large covered deck, patio and a carport. The total land area is 0.25 Acres. MLS#: 23224220



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Broker
Chris Sykes
541-215-2274




A beautifully remodeled 2-story home in Heppner. This spacious residence boasts approx 2,400 square feet of space, featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms. This house has undergone extensive renovations, with almost everything being brand new. New dry wall, paint, flooring, bathrooms, kitchen, water heater, windows. 510 S Main St. Heppner MLS#: 23687525

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