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Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... (2 Peter 3:18)

COVID-19 Update

April 15, 2020

Beloved Hope CBC Family and Friends,

Let me begin by saying how much we miss each of you. It is during times like these that I hope we see the comfort of God's sovereignty and providence in our lives. He is with us. It has been encouraging to hear reports of our church body actively reaching out to one another to show care and offer support. As I am fond of saying, "Excel still more!"

At this time, we continue to cease from gathering as the church. Out of love for neighbor, submission to our government, and ultimately trust in God, we will heed the directives of the CDC and the request of our State government, to cease our gatherings until the situation changes. It is still our hope that things will improve allowing us to meet by May 3. We struggle with the tension of Romans 13:1-7 (obedience to God-established government) and Acts 5:27-29 (obeying God rather than men). In the end, we desire to glorify God, be faithful witnesses of our faith in Him, and for the well-being of our congregation and fellow man. In all of this, with all the variables, the elders promise to communicate with you as best we can.

There is nothing easy about this. Although we trust God's providence in our lives, that does not mean it does not hurt. We would encourage you to live within that tension. Allow this time to help you long for the assembly of saints. For an uncertain period of time, we will be kept from singing together. We will be kept from partaking in the one cup and one bread at our Lord's Table. We will be kept from the ordinary means of grace that are offered to us in the gathering of believers - affectionate touch, embodied conversation, seeing our children running around the facility, praying with one another. Our hearts ache, we love you all, and pray that we do not take the gathered church for granted. When this crisis ends, I pray that each of us will heartily be able to say, *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).*

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone

Solus Christus
Christ Alone

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Soli Fide
Faith Alone

Soli Deo Gloria
God's Glory Alone



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This is a time for us to be active as the body of Christ. Let us care for our weaker members. Let us pray daily for one another. If you would like a quick action item - simply call or text the people who sit around you on any given Sunday and ask them how they are doing, if they have any needs, and if you can pray for them. Let us press into the spiritual disciplines and family worship during this time. If you need a church roster, it is available online on our church website. Let us respond to what the Lord is doing by calling upon His name and finding Him as our very present help in time of trouble (Psalm 46:1).

On Sunday mornings we will be livestreaming the sermon at 9:00 AM via the church website (www.hopecbc.org) and our church [Facebook](#) (Hope Community Bible Church Page). We also will stream our Sunday Evening service at 6:00 PM and our Thursday Evening Home Bible Fellowship at 7:00 PM. If you are not already following our social media account, please make sure to like or follow us on Facebook. During the livestream, open up your Bible, sit to hear God's Word taught, and drop us a note to let us know you're there. Pray with us, for us, and seek God in worship.

PLEASE be ready to open and engage with our communications. As the situation changes and further communication is necessary, we will offer extra communication as needed. Also be sure to check our Facebook page for updates.

We want to encourage the church to continue checking in with one another. We are one body and individual members of one another (1 Corinthians 12:12). Let us strengthen and serve one another to the best of our ability at this time. Also, let us seek the good of our neighbors. Whether its grocery shopping for an elderly neighbor, offering toilet paper or canned goods, or offering prayer - we all have an opportunity to point to our Savior by serving in His name. Let us pray that we will have many gospel conversations and opportunities in the weeks to come.

Blessings and love to all of you. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out.

For His Glory,

Pastor Ed

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