

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I've been working my way through the book of Joshua for my daily devotions for the past month and a half. Some of it is slow going as you read through the long lists of territories and cities given to the twelve tribes as the people conquer the land. It's also hard to correlate what we know of God with the destruction of whole populations. This morning my reading was Joshua 21 where the Levites are given cities to live in, and pasture around those cities for their cattle. Levites did not receive a large portion of land, rather as it says in Deuteronomy their inheritance was the Lord and they served him.

But right at the end of that chapter is a verse which the devotional I am using focused its attention on "The Lord kept every one of the promises that he had made to Israel." (Joshua 21:45). Looking back we could see his promises of descendants, land and blessing to Abraham, his promise to bring his people out of slavery in Egypt and settle them in the land, he made to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3. Even in the long lists of land being split up between the tribes and Levites being given cities, we see what God has said to and through Moses being fulfilled. Turning round from this point and looking forward we can see as you read through the whole of the Old Testament God keeping his promises. In the ups and downs of the book of judges and Israel forgetting God, but then crying out to him as they suffered oppression and defeat, and God once again responded, the sending of prophets to remind Israel of the covenant God had with them. Even the exile and then seventy years later the return from exile were part of God's covenant faithfulness.

Looking forward to the New Testament we see it fulfilled in the sending of the promised Messiah and the coming of Jesus. From post crucifixion and resurrection eyes we can see that God is also faithful and keeps his promises to us as well. Our salvation, our new life in Christ, our future hope is based on the God who keeps his promises. As Peter says at Pentecost, the people should repent and be baptised in the name of The Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and they too will receive the Holy Spirit... "for God's promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are afar away –all whom the Lord our God calls to himself".

We are very much caught up in how we feel about things, or what we are experiencing, what situations we find ourselves in. Yet the overarching narrative of the scripture is that in the midst of all that God can be trusted to keep his promises.

Here are the notices..

Worship Sunday November 20th

We join together for worship and continue our journey through Paul's letter to the church at Colossae in our series *Colossians: Christ and Christ Alone*.

10:00am @ HopeTikipunga - Colossians 4:7-18 (Catherine Bremner)

9:30am @ HopeCentral - Colossians 3:19-4:1 (Howard Carter)

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Colossians 4:2-6 (Lorne Campbell)

Zoom service Sunday November 20th

The zoom service will be the 9:30 am service from HopeCentral. The link for the service is.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83111922245>

If you are using an app on a mobile device the meeting ID number is: 83111922245

You can join via landline.

Please note that the process has changed. The phone number is 09 884 6780

The Meeting ID you need when prompted: 89285364673 followed by the # key. Then you will be asked for a further ID number or to press the # key again. Press the # hash key again. The host will ask for your name so we can put it on the computer screen so after the service people will know who you are.

After the service we will break into small groups so people can catch up, pray with each other. If you are on a landline you can unmute yourself by pressing *6. If you have someone on a landline in your group please introduce yourselves

Congregational meeting November 20th

There will be a congregational meeting after all services on Sunday November 20th. The Church property trustees require congregational approval before property is leased. So we are moving to fulfil this requirement in retrospect for the property of 73 Hunt St, which has a lease with 155 Community Law.

Hope Tikipunga Community Christmas Wednesday 16th November 10am

(2moro) Morning Tea provided- Contact Helen McGregor 0274373016

Board Wanted

Abby Armstrong Green is looking for a place to board with a willing individual, couple or family for approximately 6-12months in the Whangarei urban area. Please phone or email her to discuss pricing and dates on 0275270330 email- abbyag022@gmail.com

Connect Group Leaders and Co-leaders BBQ. Sunday November 27th 5pm @ Central



Yummy! Summer's on the way!

All Connect Group leaders and co-leaders are invited to come along to Central on Sunday Nov 27th to wind up the year together. A chance to share stories from our groups, eat some delicious food and have good fellowship together. Please bring a BIG salad or a BIG dessert ... meat, drink and ice cream provided.

RSVP to Lorne ... lorne@hopewhangarei.nz or text 021 1356275.

Christmas Designs



Hosted by Lynley McFarland & Glenys Currie

Come and enjoy a morning with Friends as we look at creating Christmas wreaths or floral designs. We are happy for people to participate in making their own designs or just to observe. **Thursday 24th November 9am-12pm Morning tea provided Admission by Koha Please contact Glenys Currie for reservations.**

Blessing

Paul finishes his first letter to the Thessalonians by an encouragement that God will continue to do his work in us for the whole of our lives...sanctifying us, making us whole and presenting us blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The assurance he gives that this will happen is God's faithfulness and an echo of Jesus words on the cross 'it is finished'... but in the future tense... 'He will do this'.

'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.'

' A mā te Atua pū anō o te rangimārie e tino whakatapu rawa koutou: kia tiakina hoki ō koutou wairua, ō koutou ngākau, ō koutou tinana, kia toitū, kia hēkore, i te taenga mai o tō tātou Ariki, o Īhu karaiti. ²⁴ He pono te kaikaranga i a koutou, māna anō hoki e whakaoti.'

1 Thessalonians/Teharonika 5: 23-24

Blessings

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGĀREI

November 8th 2022

PS: - I went out to Lang's Beach on Monday afternoon. Despite the fact that the sand spit at the southern end of the beach is open to traffic it was good to see Dotterels/Tuturiwhatu, along the beach. This photo is called...

And, stretch.

