

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

**“<sup>46</sup>I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. <sup>47</sup>And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world” (John 12:46-47).**

#### INTRODUCTION:

**A. According to the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary, Hope is defined as “confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well-founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God’s gracious promises; a scriptural sense.”**

#### **B. Jesus Christ is the Hope of the World**

1. Christ came to rescue and restore. He came to call, draw, and love those who without His grace would continue to live for themselves in darkness. Christ came and because He came, there is Hope that sinners can be redeemed and the world can be renewed.
2. For the Believer, Hope is a person and His name is Jesus Christ.

#### **C. Jesus Christ is our only Hope that can ever give Hope to Sinners**

- “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

##### **1. Jesus is the Way to God**

Jesus bridges the gap between God and man.

##### **2. Jesus is the Truth**

“Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?” (John 14:9).

##### **3. Jesus is the Life**

“<sup>1</sup>And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph 2:1-2).

The spiritually dead are made spiritually alive – “and you hath He quickened” – **By** Grace **Through** Faith **In** Christ Jesus.

- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph 2:8).
- “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11).

## I. THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD (v. 46)

### ○ “..... in Darkness”

#### A. **Darkness refers to sin, moral darkness, spiritual darkness; ignorance of divine things, associated with wickedness; spiritual decay; separation from God.**

1. Sin is anything that a person says, does or thinks that goes against what God wants – **missing the mark** of God’s righteousness.
2. Sin is transgression of the Law of God (1 John 3:4).
3. Sin is rebelling against God (Deut 9:7).

#### B. **Sin is the Cause of Darkness in the World**

1. Men love darkness, living in sin or living a life apart from God.
  - “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19).
2. Sin is separation from God. Sin blinds people to the truth and darkens their understanding of God and His word.
  - “Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart” (Eph 4:18).

#### C. **List of Sins according to the Word of God**

- “<sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Mark 7:21-23).
- “<sup>9</sup> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, <sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor 6:9-10).
- “<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal 5:19-21).

**Our search for truth is hindered by the darkness of the night  
Until the Bright and Morning star reveals His brilliant light. - Sper**

## II. THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST (v. 46)

### ○ “.... A Light ...”

**A. Christ referred to Himself “as a Light” – Christ is the source of Spiritual Truth, Guidance and Salvation, illuminating Spiritual Darkness (Sin), and offering the way to a life of righteousness and Eternal Life.**

**B. Christ is the Source of Light and Life**

**1. He is the “Light of Life” (John 8:12).**

The meaning, purpose and significance of life cannot be seen and known apart from following Christ. Jesus Christ throws Light upon Life, revealing what Life really is.

**2. Jesus as the Light tells us that He is Holy, Righteous, and Pure.**

Light is the symbol of purity and holiness. Light is the absence of darkness (sin).

**C. Jesus as the Light guides us in Truth and Love toward Him and our neighbors (everybody).**

Just as a Lighthouse guides ships through stormy seas and darkness. Jesus, as the Light of the World guides us through the storms and darkness of life, offering Hope and direction.

○ Come to the Light, tis shining for thee,  
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me;  
Once I was blind, but now I can see –  
The Light of the world is Jesus. – Bliss

○ **When we walk in the Light, we will not stumble in the darkness.” -**  
Anonymous

**III. THE SPHERE OF HIS SHINING (v. 46)**

○ **“.... In the world ...”**

○ **“World” means worldly affairs; the inhabitants of the world; the universe.**

**A. Jesus as the Light is shining Brightly in the world for all to see.**

He is shining brightly through His Word, nature, Gospel Songs and Hymns, prayers, sermons and sharing of testimonies.

**B. Let the light of God shine through His Word**

○ **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps 119:105).**

**God’s Word is a Light which we should allow to illuminate our lives. Do not shut the Light out of your life.**

**C. Be sure to shine the Light in your life by spending time in His Word and Prayer.**

**D. Christ wants us to shine our light in this world – tell somebody about Christ and be sure to glorify Him.**

- “<sup>14</sup>Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt 5:14-16).
- **Two Lights Are Shining Now**  
A woman who came to know Christ as her Savior returned home full of joy – the unique gladness that overflows the heart of a repentant sinner. After a few weeks, she expressed a desire to leave the community in which she lived because it was so sinful. When her pastor heard this, he said with some severity, “How would you like it if the city removed all the lights from the dirty, dangerous streets and left lights only in the good neighborhoods where no crimes are committed? Didn’t Christ say, Ye are the light of the world?” (Matt 5:14). The woman accepted the rebuke, and some time later said to her pastor, “Now there are two lights that shine in our street.” She had led a soul to Christ.

#### IV. **THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING** (v. 47)

- “... To save the world.”

##### A. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**

- “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief” (1 Tim 1:15).

##### B. **Jesus Came to Give us Life – Eternal Life**

- “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

##### C. **Jesus Came to Call Sinners to Repentance**

- “<sup>31</sup>And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. <sup>2</sup>I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32).

##### D. **Jesus Came to Bear Witness to the Truth**

- “Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:37).

##### E. **Jesus Came to Serve and “Give His Life as a Ransom for Many.”**

- “For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

#### **F. For Whom Did Jesus Die?**

Christ died “for when we were yet without strength... the ungodly ... sinners and His enemies” (Rom 5:6, 8, 10).

#### **V. THE CONDITION OF SALVATION (v. 46)**

○ “... Believeth one me ....”

○ “Believe” means to have faith in, complete trust in, entrusted with

**A. As Christians, we believe so strongly in God that we are willing to commit our lives to Him and live according to His commandments and commands.**

○ “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

○ “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3).

**B. As Christians, we believe that “... Christ died for our sins .... He was buried ... and Rose Again on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3-4).**

**C. As Christians, we believe in God’s promise of Eternal Life**

○ “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2).

○ “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:7).

**D. As Christians, we believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (1 Thess 4:13-18)**

○ “<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2-3).

○ “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come” (1 Cor 11:26).

**E. Jesus is the only means by which we can have our sins forgiven and Heaven is our home.**

○ “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31).

#### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

**A. Jesus Christ is our only Hope for Salvation and Eternal Life.**

**B. Jesus Christ is the Source of Light and Life. He is Holy, Righteous and Pure – He expects the same of His children.**

○ “<sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

<sup>16</sup>Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet 1:15-16).

**C. Christians are to share the Gospel with Unbelievers**

- “<sup>9</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt 28:19-20).

**D. Jesus Christ is Coming Again to Earth – His Second Coming will be Visible and Victorious.**

- “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (Mark 13:26).
- “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Rev 1:7).

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**“<sup>13</sup> Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup> Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:13-14).**

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. “Christ is the true light of the world; it is through him alone that true wisdom is imparted to the mind.” – Jonathan Edwards**

**B. This little of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**C. Jesus is calling, “Today you must choose!”**

**If you delay, you will surely lose;**

**Listening now, you can hear the Lord’s voice,**

**Take His Salvation – A Beautiful Choice! – Hess**

**D. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**

**From the Teaching Ministry of:  
Pastor Carl Bennett  
Corinth Christian Fellowship  
March 12, 2025**

**“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).**