



## **A Word from Pastor Larry** "Christ our Hope In Life and Death "

By the time you read this letter, I will have attended a funeral and a wedding, both within the span of one week. It was an immediate reminder of life's preciousness and the reality of celebration for the believer. Both occasions, wedding and funeral, reflect the goodness of God and how He holds life and death in His hands.

Every believer is encouraged to hold dear the comforting words that Paul shared with the church at Thessalonica regarding the sorrow of losing a loved one to death. Paul writes, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Th 4:13). The church is reminded of the hope they have in the resurrected Jesus. First, the overseers (we) want the church to understand what is in store for those who abide in Jesus. Secondly, adherents of the Lord Jesus do not mourn as those who have no hope. Johnathan Edwards (1703-158), a proponent of the Great Awakening, wrote these timely words, "When a saint dies, he has no cause at all to grieve because he leaves his friends and relations that he dearly loves, for he doth not properly leave them. For he enjoys them still in Christ; because everything he loves in them and loves them for, is in Christ in an infinite degree; whether it be nearness of relation, or any perfection and good received, or love to us, or a likeness in dispositions, or whatever is a rational ground of love." There is a uniqueness about the way a child of Christ mourns the deceased. There is a reality of the thought, "this isn't 'goodbye' but just a 'see you later.'"

I remember officiating a funeral for someone whose salvation was uncertain. A family asked me to

officiate the funeral, and even though I didn't know the deceased personally, I was happy to agree to their request. Before this funeral, I had attended at least at least three others in the weeks before. At those funerals, everyone was a believer in the Lord Jesus, and the family felt an immediate sense of comfort knowing their loved one was in Jesus's presence. This funeral was quite different from others I've officiated. Without going into too much detail, there was a profound sense of hopelessness, uncertainty, deep sorrow, and a weight that is difficult to put into words. The sadness was something I had never seen on this level at a funeral service. As sad as this was, my immediate thought was, "Thank God I am a child of the Lord Jesus Christ, and when I die, my service must be a worship service honoring the King of Kings."

I am thankful that we have our ultimate hope in Christ Jesus. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We owe our worship, dedication, and lives to Jesus. He is the master over life and death. When Moses was nearing the end of his life, and he was about to pass the leadership role to disciple Joshua, he addressed the people of Israel with these words, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live" (Deu 30:19). Even though these words are to the Hebrew people preparing to pass over Jordan, there is a reminder there that God Almighty is the author of life and death. The beauty of this is found in the words of the evangelist John who writes, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 Jn 5:12).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4 <sup>th</sup> of July	5 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship
6 10 AM: Kards Ministry	7 9 AM : CEC Camp GSCC Homeschool	8 9 AM : CEC Camp	9 9 AM : CEC Camp	10	11	12 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship
13 6pm: Stewardship	14 9 AM : CEC Camp 7pm: Leadership Team Meeting	15 9 AM : CEC Camp	16 9 AM : CEC Camp 12PM: Y@H 7:30 PM: Missions	17	18 Happiness Retreat	19 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship Happiness Retreat
20 Happiness Retreat	21	22	23 GSCC Homeschool	24	25	26 9 AM: Bible Study 10:30 AM: Worship 5PM: Reg Church Conf
27	28 9 AM : CEC Camp	29 9 AM : CEC Camp	30 9 AM : CEC Camp GSCC Homeschool	31		

2026 July



## Praise the Lord!

From the rising of the sun  
unto the going down of  
the same the LORD's name  
is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3, KJV

**INTEREST MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 16, AT 6:30 PM**

**EVERY  
CHURCH,  
EVERY  
COMMUNITY.**

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Eric Hudson..... Minister to Students  
Candace McCall ..... Minister to Children and Families  
Jordan Inscore..... Administrative Assistant  
Max Miller ..... Treasurer  
Kim Payne ..... Child Enrichment Center Director