

## Giving Hope, Building Homes

*Mission and Vision Sunday 2022*

### Introduction

Copperfield Church's mission is to **Invite All to Build Hope-Filled Homes in Jesus**. This is what we believe God has given us to do at this time in our church's history. But why? Why do we want to fulfill this mission of inviting all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus? What values do we hold that motivate us to fulfill this mission?

We have identified four motives that fuel this mission of inviting all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus: 1) Giving Hope, 2) Building Homes, 3) Sharing Life, and 4) Treasuring Jesus. This morning, we will consider the first two motives: Giving Hope and Building Homes.

### Exposition

Why are we committed to this mission of inviting all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus?

#### **I. To Give Hope**

Our world is starving for hope. And we look for hope in all sorts of places. We look for hope in our education, our careers, our finances, our cars, our houses, our toys, our recreation, our spouses, our kids, our community, and our healthcare system. We look for hope everywhere. In defining the concept of hope, Jerome Groopman, a Harvard Medical School professor and author of the book, *The Anatomy of Hope*, describes hope as "the ability to see a path to the future." In other words, hope gets you from here to where you want to be. It makes promises. Groopman went on to state, "You are facing dire circumstances, and you need to know everything that's blocking or threatening you. And then you see a path, or a potential path, to get to where you want to be. Once you see that, there's a tremendous emotional uplift that occurs."

Groopman states that in his medical practice, "I think hope has been, is, and always will be the heart of medicine and healing. We could not live without hope." Regardless of medical advancements, "We still come back to this profound human need to believe that there is a possibility to reach a future that is better than the one in the present." I believe almost everyone would agree with Groopman's point about hope.

But there's a problem, at least with this definition or vision of hope. It's that hope must have an object. It must be set on something or someone. Hope is not some generic affection or emotion. Hope cannot simply be some sort of therapeutic, undefined idea or word that we just toss around because we know people are interested in it.

So, when we say that we, Copperfield Church, are motivated by "giving hope," it must be a hope that's real. It must be a hope worth giving. So, what does it mean to give hope? How might we demonstrate giving hope?

We give hope when we point people to Jesus. Believers and unbelievers alike will only find hope by looking to Jesus. You might call this evangelism, sharing the gospel, or making disciples. But our ultimate aim is for people to find their hope in Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul talks about this hope in Titus 3:3-8, where he describes the hope that Jesus brings to those who trust him. **Titus 3:3-8** states,

<sup>3</sup> At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

This is the hope that we experience when we put our trust in Jesus. This is the hope, only hope that we can give people. But it is not just the hope that others need, it is also the hope that we need. If you recall what Dr. Groopman said about hope in a dire circumstance, then you will appreciate what the apostle Paul says again in **Romans 8:18-27**, where he addresses a group of suffering Christians,

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Did you hear that? We know we ought to pray but we cannot bring ourselves to pray because we are suffering and struggling in weakness, the Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding for us, searching our hearts, bringing our needs before the Triune God in accordance with His will.

And as a result of this hope that we possess in God, we can affirm the truth of **Romans 8:28-30**, which says,

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Because of the hope that we have, we are able to say, "that in all things god works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

What an unbelievable declaration! The hope that we have in Christ transforms our perspective about the sufferings and trials and difficulties that we face in this life. And it does so in such a way that we are able to sing **Romans 8:31-39**,

<sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is no random, generic hope. This is no “wishful thinking.” This is life-transforming. If this hope gets a hold of you, your life will never be the same again. And we believe that this can be true for everyone who places their trust in Jesus. Because of Jesus, we believe there is hope for everyone. No exceptions or exclusions. Hope is available to you today because of Jesus. We want to see you receive this hope by turning your eyes to Jesus.

We do not believe that there is such a thing as “a hopeless case” or “a lost cause.”

But we believe that this hope is not simply about what happens in eternity. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not suggesting that hope is not concerned with eternity. It certainly is. As Titus 3:7 puts it, “we are heirs of the hope of eternal life.” We are looking with hope-filled expectation and excitement for the day when Jesus returns. Yet, this hope that we have for the future also impacts our lives right now.

And what we, as Copperfield Church, want to see happen in our community and around the world is for this hope that we have in Christ to all fill our homes. That is, we want this hope that we have in Christ to be the found upon which we build our lives, our homes, which is the second motive that we will consider this morning...

## **II. To Build Homes**

We believe that God not only desires to give you hope as an individual but also to fill you with hope in all of the other roles that you fulfill on given day. We want to see husbands and wives filled with the hope of Jesus. We want to see mothers and fathers, and grandparents filled with the hope of Jesus. We want to see preschoolers, and elementary school children, and preteens, and teenagers, and young adults, and college and career filled with the hope of Jesus in such a way that is impact the homes that they inhabit.

The imagery that we are drawing upon to communicate this motive is the image of home being built. This imagery of the building of a house or home is used throughout the Scriptures to describe part of God's work. The most explicit place where we find the imagery of a house being built by God is **Hebrews 3:1-6**, where we read,

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. <sup>2</sup> He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. <sup>5</sup> "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. <sup>6</sup> But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

The home is where we experience great joy and pleasure but also great grief and pain. Our marriages can be great sources of happiness but also difficult trials. Our children can be a great blessing and a tremendous source of anxiety and pain. Our homes can be places of order and disorder. And what we need more than anything is for the God who is building his own house for his own people, as **Hebrews 3:1-6** tells us, to also come, in his powerful mercy and grace, and come help us build our homes on the rock, who is Christ, that we might be able to weather the storms that are coming.

And this is no imposition on Scripture to teach that God is concerned with our homes. That is to say, it is not wrong to say that God is concerned with the closest relationship in our families. If you read through the book of Acts, you will regularly find passages like **Acts 11:14**, where Luke tells of God's intention to save not only mothers and fathers through the message of the gospel but also their children through the gospel message. We see it with the story of Lydia in Acts 16 and the story of Crispus, the synagogue leader in Acts 18, where it says that "they believed in the LORD." Obviously, God takes pleasure in working out his purposes in our homes.

Could be in the home of a single woman. Could be in the home of a single parent. Could be in the home of grandparents. Could be in the home of foster parents. Could be in the home of an elderly couple. Could be in the home of a widow or widower. Could be in the home of a young, up-and-coming professional. Could be in your home this afternoon, or tomorrow morning, or later this week.

The point is not to say that God only works in the context of homes. That is not the point at all. He works wherever He wants whenever He wants because He is God. No, the point of stressing "homes" is not to limit God, but rather, to stir us to see God working in the ordinary, mundane rhythms of our weary, hope-starved lives, and see that God intends to meet us where we are and transform us by his grace in Jesus.

What this means for us as a congregation is that we want God to use us to help you build your home on the hope of Christ. We want God to use Copperfield Church to equip you to be full of hope in Christ. Nothing will transform your relationship with your spouse, with your children, your grandchildren, your neighbors, or your co-workers like being filled the hope of Jesus.

How will we do this? There are so many ways that we believe that God has equipped us to help you build a hope-filled home.

Obviously, the first way is to ensure that you know that hope that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Everything else that you attempt to do to make your home better is in vain if it does not begin with faith in Christ. Attempting to fix your life without placing your hope in Jesus is like putting makeup on a corpse. Makeup might make the corpse look good, but death is still present. No, we need new life, and this new life comes only through faith in Christ.

Once we have believed and received eternal life in Christ, then we can begin to work on the other relationships in our home. If it's your relationship with your spouse, we provide marriage mentoring, peacemaking, and refer to wonderful professional counselors. If it's your relationship with your children, we provide counseling and discipleship opportunities, in addition to age-appropriate discipleship on Sundays. If you're a mom of small children, we have a MOPS ministry just for you. If you are a father and looking for a way to get more involved with your sons, we have a TrailLife ministry. If you are looking for resources to help you work through various issues that we are facing in our culture, we have our Homefield area that provides resources for all sorts of issues. If you are looking for people that will walk alongside you, sharing life with you, then we have all sorts of Small Groups available. And I could go on and on.

But what do all of these ministries have in common, they are all aimed at filling your home with hope in Jesus. They do not exist as an end in themselves, but a means to an end, that you may be able to lay your head down at night and say, "Things might not be easy. And sometimes life is hard. And this house doesn't always feel like the home that I envisioned. But because Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again, I can be confident that everything is ultimately going to be ok. I have hope."

### **Conclusion**

Can you say that? Can you say, "I have hope?" We want everyone in this room to be able to say that and know that they have hope.