

HOPE OF GLORY MINISTRIES

Summer 2003

But Who Do You Say That I Am?

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It has been impressed on my heart recently the influence the so called "crowd" can have on our journey with Jesus. I believe the question our Lord is asking is this, "Does the crowd I am most influenced by encourage me to have a closer walk with Jesus Christ or does it hinder me in my personal relationship with Jesus?" Let's look at the Word of God together that we may receive insight regarding the affects of the crowds that surround us. Beginning in Luke 9:18 we read, "And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, who do the crowds say that I am?" This is a very good question, and note that it comes immediately after Jesus has just miraculously fed a multitude of five thousand men (not including women and children) with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus undoubtedly knew the potential influence of these "crowds" on His disciples and I believe as He was praying our Heavenly Father prompted this question in His heart so that He could teach His disciples a valuable lesson in discerning rightly the "crowds" around you. After all, this multitude had just spent the day with them, had heard Jesus teach, saw Jesus

heal and witnessed a miracle worked through Him. It would have been easy for the disciples to believe this crowd is just like us— their seeking God's face and will. But in John 6:26 the scriptures read, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled." This occurred following the feeding of the five thousand, and we can see that Jesus was questioning the motive of the crowds' hearts in seeking Him. Some were obviously more interested in having their natural desires met rather than their spiritual desires. Many were excited by His miracles, yet not willing to accept Him as their Messiah. Others looked for His supernatural signs but would not receive Him as their personal Savior. Some people in the crowds loved to be amazed but did not see their own need to be saved. In Luke 9:19 we read the response of the disciples to Jesus' question, "so they answered and said, John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again." The crowds noticeably had differing opinions of who Jesus is. They all had biblical based answers but they were all absolutely wrong. There are varying opinions

that come from the "crowds of today" about who Jesus Christ is. Some will say a good teacher, others a prophet or the man upstairs, or a miracle worker. But I am so glad that the opinions of the crowds do not change who Jesus Christ really is. What is your crowd's opinion of Jesus? Do they too have kind comments of Jesus but fall short of truly knowing who He is? Do their remarks and opinions influence you positively or negatively? As we read on in the scriptures, Jesus now redirects His question from what the crowds say and makes it a personal question. In Luke 9:20 it reads, "But who do you say that I am?" I believe Jesus was teaching the disciples not to make their decision about who He is based on the crowd's opinion but rather on their own personal revelation, which comes by seeking Him with an open heart. When we stand before Jesus Christ who "was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42) it will not be an issue about who the "crowd" says that He is but who you say that He is. Verse 20 continues, Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God". Hallelujah! Peter confessed Jesus as both the promised Messiah and as divine.

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To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

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In Matthews' account of this story, he records Jesus' response to Peter. Matthew 16:17 reads, "Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." Peter did not trust the eternal destiny of his soul with the crowds' opinions of who Jesus is, but in seeking God he received by divine revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. How about you today? Have you trusted Christ as your Lord and personal Savior? If not, why don't you stop right now and repent of your sins and acknowledge you need a Savior and ask Jesus Christ to come into your life and be your Lord. The bible says in Romans 10:9-10, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." [The word believe is from the Greek word, *pisteuo*, which means to trust in, have faith in, be fully convinced of, acknowledge, rely on. {Strong's #4100}] It's not a mental ascent that Jesus is Lord but a personal reliance upon Jesus Christ as your Lord that produces obedience. We then identify our lives with His and out of love for Him submit to His lordship. If you have already been born again then let the cry of your heart be... "I want to draw nearer to God". Stand firm in your faith and be discerning of "crowds" that would draw you away from Jesus. The bible is full of accounts of people who

forsook the opinions of the crowd to position themselves in the presence of the Lord and having done so, their lives were radically transformed by God. Let this also be our testimony before a lost and dark world. May we be a people that influences the crowds around us with the truth that Jesus is the Christ and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Remember "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31)

Love in Christ,
Clark Stallings

We Need Your Support

We ask you to prayerfully consider supporting Hope of Glory Ministries financially. Your prayers and gifts enable us to fulfill the mission God has given us. Thank you very much for your support!

We held a tent crusade in Moyewood Subdivision on August 1-2. We partnered with the Church of the Open Door in this event. Many lives were touched ...15 children accepted Jesus in their hearts during the Kid's Day Event on Saturday morning! Praise God!! We will be going back to Moyewood during Thanksgiving to hold another crusade and to deliver Thanksgiving meals to the families that live there. We are believing the Lord is doing wonderful things in that neighborhood and many are going to come into the knowledge of His Saving Grace!!

List of Items needed for God's Gracious Gift

Non-perishable food items

- Canned fruit & vegetables
- Canned meat, peanut butter
- Soup, spaghetti & sauce, macaroni
- Cereal, crackers, etc.

Household Resources

- Tables, chairs, sofas, appliances
- Curtains, sheets, comforters
- Lamps, bookshelves
- Cups, plates, etc.

Clothing

- Men, women, children, infant

Baby Products

- Bottles, diapers
- Blankets, cradles, etc.

Personal Hygiene

- Toothbrush, toothpaste
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap
- Shaving cream, razors



This list is not final, but directional. May the Lord bless you in your giving!

The Annual Celebration is being moved again...sorry!

We will be having a Family Fun Day in The Spring. Details will be in the next newsletter.

God's Gracious Gift

It has been another few months here at God's Gracious Gift. Philipians 4:19 reads, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." We have seen the Lord provide on so many levels more than we could have ever imagined! We have seen conversions, infillings, and people rededicating their lives to the Lord and to His service! We thank various churches who are helping to make the food bank a reality in order that we might do all God has called us to do. The influx of clothing has been incredible, as we help meet that need in our community on a daily basis. So thank you to all who have made this possible! We have also continued to build a stronger relationship with the homeless shelter and their transitional housing units. At this time, we have committed to helping maintain their mentoring program as we help teach, train, and equip those in need at Greenville Community Shelter. Presently, we are in need of people who might feel called to be a mentor in this ministry. Please pray for the Lord's will in this area, that the Lord will send people who are called by His Name for such a time as this. If you are interested in mentoring, please call Aaron Kennedy @ 321-6857.

Also, we are in need of non-perishable food items so we can complete the mission God has given us. We ask that you please help in this area if at all possible. Our goal and purpose is clear...To share the love that the Lord has so freely given to you and to me.

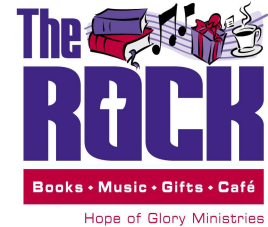
God Bless,
Aaron Kennedy

Recommended Reading:

Waking the Dead, by John Eldredge
(Follow-up to the Best Selling "Wild at Heart") **On Sale for \$18.97**

**Recommended Music:**

Passion's long awaited new release, "Sacred Revolution"
(Hits the shelves August 19)



We welcome you... Cory, Mandi, Caedmon, & Kathryn !!

A year ago today we wouldn't have believed you if you told us we would be living in North Carolina. A year ago today we had never even set foot in North Carolina! Yet God had other plans. Early this year Cory found an ad for a manager's position at a bookstore in North Carolina. He was not looking to find new employment, yet he stumbled upon it while doing work for the Amen Corner in Alabama. He sent in a resume and we really never expected to hear anything back, but we did. In May Cory received a phone call from Brother Clark in regards to the position at The Rock. After many weeks of praying, a lot of tears, and a visit to Greenville, we felt that God was behind this offer and we took a huge leap of faith and accepted the job. We traveled to Greenville one last time before the move to find a house. When we would tell people we were coming up here for two days to find a house you could tell that they thought we were nuts. Yet when God is behind something, anything is possible. In our first day searching for a house, not only did we find a house that we loved, but we made an offer that the sellers accepted before midnight that day. I don't think anyone can deny God's hand in that deal! Once we got back to Alabama, we had three weeks before we moved. On July 10th, we left Alabama, the only home we had ever known, and arrived in North Carolina that same day. The next morning we signed the papers and moved into our new house. Amazingly, thanks to family and new friends up here, we had the moving truck unloaded in about an hour and a half. We are still slowly getting settled in. We still miss Alabama, but this will slowly become home as well. We have heard from many people that our move is just as Abraham's move thousands of years ago. We left everything we had ever known to follow God's plan for our lives. Though we may never fully understand God's reasoning for this move, we will trust in Him each step of the way. Only God can turn your world upside down and inside out and you still make it out on the other side. We are looking forward to being a part of this area and meeting all of you.

In Christ,

Mandi Ragland

Women's Ministry Outreach: *Beginning August 28, 2003 at 9:15 AM, we will be starting a community bible study that you don't want to miss! Beth Moore's new 7-week bible study, When Godly People Do Ungodly Things, is here and the message that she brings is bold and courageous. We will hear the Lord's wisdom and truth as He ministers to us through worship, teaching, small groups, and testimonies. Come and be blessed as we seek Him! For more information or to pre-register, call Pat Kinlaw at 321-6857. (Sorry.....no childcare available)*

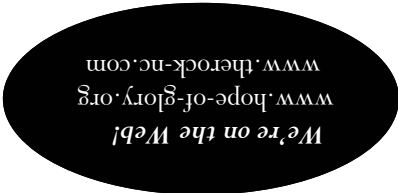
Attention Churches: *We will be having a Monthly Pastors Wives Breakfast, beginning September 30th. We invite the wives of all Pastors, Associate Pastors, and Youth Pastors to fellowship and bless one another in the Name of the Lord! On October 28th, we hope to have a special guest speaker that will share with the pastors wives and encourage us as we stand for the Body of Christ. Please be praying! If you would like to come or be on the mailing list for this, call Pat Kinlaw at 321-6857. We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us all as we seek Him!*

Gina Robinson

Women's Ministry Outreach



COFFEEHOUSE UPDATE.... God is moving! We recently had an opportunity, with the help of some of our Ministry partners, to purchase equipment from a local coffeehouse that closed down. We see God's Hand in it all but we are being very careful to listen for His instruction before taking any step. We are currently discussing construction costs for possible renovations to our present facilities to house this café. Please continue with us in prayer as we seek the Lord in this."For the vision is yet for an appointed time (Hab. 2:3)." But it will surely come!



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MISSION STATEMENT
To stand in the gap between our community of believers and the church, and between the church and the lost. We will come alongside these three groups to proclaim the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ and minister through Christian resources, evangelism, discipleship and community outreach.

Needs:

- 2 small monitors; 1 for drums & 1 for keyboard
 - Large-capacity Copier for Ministry Center
- The following needs have been met since the last newsletter:
- 3-Tape Cassette Duplicator
 - Bookcase for Used Book Ministry

Praise be to God who supplies all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus! (Phil. 4:19)

Clark will be speaking on "The Power of Unity" at the Aqueduct Conference Center September 19-21. For more info, call Pat at 321-6857.

Prayer Requests:

- Powerful move of God's Spirit in all ministry services
- Mighty wall of protection surrounding ministry, staff, and volunteers
- Continued prayer & financial support for ministry
- Area churches to partner with God's Gracious Gift/ Approval of grant proposals
- Prayer & financial support for Café & Coffeehouse
- Upcoming ECU Campus Tent Crusade (Oct 6-10).....pray for a harvest of souls!

Upcoming Ministry Events:

- Worship Service every Thursday @ 7 p.m.
- Monthly Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon (2nd Tuesday of month)
- Monthly Pastors Wives Breakfast, beginning Sept. 30.
- Sept. 25 (7PM): Special Guest Speaker, Roy Harthern (Benny Hinn's Father-in-law)
- Oct. 6-10: ECU Tent Crusade
- Oct. 25 (9AM-3PM): "Turning Up the Heat" (A Praise & Worship Exposure), sponsored by Agape Impact Ministries
- Nov. 11 (7PM): Lindell Cooley (Brownsville Revival)
- Dec. 13 (7PM): Marty Goetz (A Night of Worship)

Salvation • Deliverance • Healings • Miracles
We invite you to join us every Thursday Night at 7 PM as we celebrate our risen Lord and Savior!
Each service consists of a time of worship as we lift our voices in praise, followed by the sharing of the Word and a time of prayer, as the Holy Spirit leads.
Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with Me. (Rev. 3:20)
Come and feast at His table!
[Sermon messages taped weekly and are available at the Ministry Center]