

# HOPEWELL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'*

20220 Hopewell Road  
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ  
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

June - July 2024

### **God's Purpose** – Pastor Lee Cubie

I recently received a question from someone in the congregation. It reads, *“When the new earth comes into being and we rule over the angels, living on earth, to rule and care for it, does Jesus live beside (and rule with) God or come to earth?”* This question, to me, is about God's final purposes for his creation. I would like to answer it by discussing the nature of the new earth. Then comes the nature of our participation in the new earth. And finally, what is the role of Christ in the new earth?

To begin, we ask what are the final purposes of God for creation? To understand, let us turn to the book of Revelation 21:1-7 which reads,

*“**21** Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death<sup>[1]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

***5** He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

***6** He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”*

To begin our observations, it is not just a new earth but a “new heaven and a new earth.” This is important to note because it is describing a new relationship between heaven and earth. The change of relationship has to do with God's redemption of man and creation which were *“subject to futility”* (Romans 8:20). The reason for futility (which needs to be understood as death, decay, and loss of fertility) is *“for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God”* (Rom 8:19). This reversal of futility is the reversal of the curse of sin in mankind (see Gen 3:14-19).

Revelation 21:3-4 reinforces this reversal. It begins with God being with creation and mankind just as he was in the garden of Eden when *“the Lord God (was) walking in the cool of the day”* (Gen 3:8). The words



of Revelation 21:1 also include this phrase, *“and there was no longer any sea.”* The sea represents that which separates us from God. Verse 3 continues this reversal by God saying, *“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”* This reversal continues in verse 4 which reads, *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”* In verse 5 these words are spoken, *“I am making everything new!”* It does not say that God is making new things but rather he is renewing all things to their original state before the fall of Adam. In verse 7 we are told, *“I will be their God and they will be my children.”* I understand this to mean that the image of God will be restored in us as if we had never fallen.

To summarize, in Revelation 21:1-7 we see the final purpose of God for his creation and mankind. It is the complete redemption of creation and mankind to their original purpose before the advent of sin into the creation of God through the sin of Adam.

The next question deals with our participation in the new heaven and the new earth. The question comes out of *“when the new earth comes into being and we rule over the angels...”* This idea probably stems out of 1 Corinthians 6:2-3. It reads, *“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, matters pertaining to this life!”* Paul is wrestling with a church where members are turning on one another. Verses 7-8 makes this clearer, Paul writes, *“To have lawsuits with one another is defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that even your own brethren.”* What is at stake here is the command of Jesus in John 15:12-13. *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friend.”* This is what Paul is proclaiming in verses 7-8. It is a practical application of the teaching of Jesus Christ. As true as this might be, it does not deal with the heart of the question.

In the above quotation from 1 Corinthians, the Greek word translated as judge is *krino*. It also means to rule or govern. As was shown in Revelation 21:1-7, there should not be much judging or ruling to do in the new heaven and earth. For it is God who has ruled and governed to the extent that all is redeemed and made new. So, what is Paul referring to? When we look to the pioneer and author of our faith, Jesus of Nazareth, he says concerning himself, *“For God sent me into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”* (Jn 3:17) The question arises how is the world condemned? John 3:19 gives the answer, *“And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* Therefore, it is man who condemns himself by his response to Christ, not Christ. Our rule or judgment does not come out of our moral superiority but rather our faithful and humble response to Christ. John records Jesus expressing this in a different way in his discussion of the Holy Spirit in John 16:8-11, *“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”* This tells us, that our participation in God’s rule is happening now through our loving response to Jesus and our loving obedience to the Son and the Father through the Holy Spirit. Our participation in the final judgment is to be an example to the world as to what they turned away from.

Hopefully, these responses to the first two questions answers those questions. Let us now turn to the third: what is Christ’s role in the new heaven and earth? The response deals with our resurrection. We see this in 1 Corinthians 15:20-28. Paul writes, *“<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. <sup>28</sup> When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.* From this can be seen

the role of Christ in the new heaven and the new earth. It all stems from his obedience to the Father, “*And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.*” (Phil. 2:8) Christ’s role in the new heaven and new earth stems from his role as the Father’s obedient Son. When the Son hands everything to the Father, it does not mean he is not present in the new heaven and the new earth. Rather he will be present as he was in the beginning. John reveals to us that, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” This tells us that the Father and the Son will always be with us through the Holy Spirit.

I hope this answers the questions. But don’t take my word for it but test it by reading the scriptures asking God for guidance through prayer.

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### **General Conference 2024 Summary** – as reported in a 5/4/2024 East Ohio Conference e-newsletter

Nearly 800 delegates from across the worldwide United Methodist Church gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina during April 23 – May 3 for the postponed 2020 General Conference, which couldn’t meet because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The six lay and six clergy delegates of the East Ohio Conference had front row seats in the middle section of classroom tables inside the Charlotte Convention Center for General Conference, which is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. The assembly meets at the beginning of each quadrennium to consider revisions to church law, adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy, and economic issues, and approve plans and budgets for church-wide programs for the next four years.

During the 10 days of General Conference, delegates:

- adopted regionalization legislation,
- approved legislation that will remove restrictive, prohibitive language from *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*,
- adopted legislation that will grant Deacons authority to preside at sacraments,
- approved legislation to reduce the number of active bishops in the United States,
- adopted a reduced budget for the 2025-2028 quadrennium,
- approved legislation to change the clergy retirement plan,
- adopted climate justice legislation,
- and much more.

[Read the General Conference recap article:](#)

<https://eocumcnews.com/2024/05/04/general-conference-recap-and-know-that-i-am-god>



### **Hopewell Birthdays**

#### **June**

- |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 20 | Greg Yashnik          |
| 24 | Lee Cubie             |
| 29 | Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe |

#### **July**

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 2  | Mickey Gourley |
| 2  | Ellen Kaiser   |
| 13 | Tim Wright     |
| 20 | Katie Beran    |
| 24 | Nancy Gore     |



"Today we learned about the Top Ten Commandments."

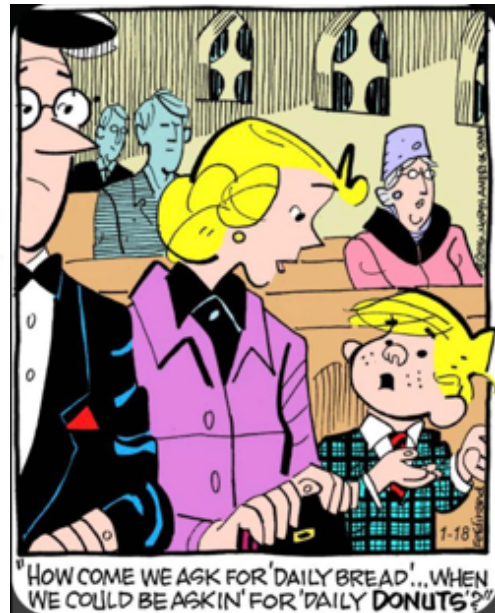
just-shower-thoughts

There is no biblical evidence that Jesus even knew how to parallel park. Letting him take the wheel seems a bit irresponsible.

amemait

Uh, no, you're so wrong? Everybody knows that Jesus drove a Honda, but he didn't like to talk about it?

From John 12:49 'For I do not speak of my own Accord...'



"HOW COME WE ASK FOR 'DAILY BREAD'... WHEN WE COULD BE ASKIN' FOR 'DAILY DONUTS'?"



"After I introduce you to solids, I'm going to need your help with some computer stuff."



*At left:* The Hopewell congregation generously donated an abundance of treats for the Barnabas project, to encourage our post-high school students in their academic ventures. On March 31, Vanessa Douglas, Donna Spinks, Bev Lahmon, and Phyllis Gourley (the photographer, not shown) packed the bags for delivery to six students. The students, Donna reports, greatly appreciated the treats during finals week studies. Many thanks to all the thoughtful donors.

Ashlyn Scott and Pete (last name withheld) are graduating from high school and will receive Bibles from their Hopewell church family, along with best wishes for success on their journeys.

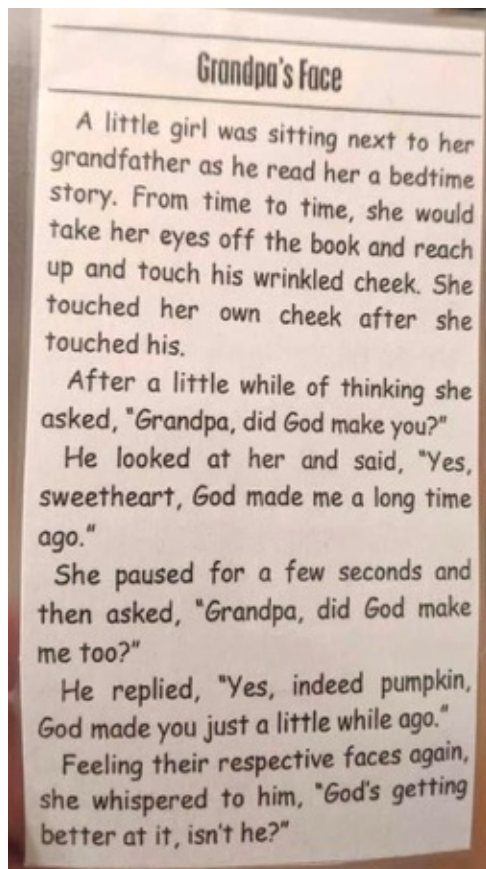
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## Twenty Scripture Passages That Define Christianity (All you need to know is here)

—compiled by Chris Cordle, Ph.D., a dear friend of Bob and Linda Joseph

**John 3:16 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)** <sup>37</sup> ... “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**Luke 6:31 (NIV)** <sup>31</sup> “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

**Luke 6:37-38 (NIV)** <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

**Mathew 7:3-5 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

**Luke 17:3-4 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> “So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. <sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

**Mark 2:17 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup> “On hearing this, Jesus said to them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.’”

**Mark 12:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> “Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

**Matthew 25:40 (NIV)** <sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

**Matthew 26:26-27 (NIV)** <sup>26</sup> “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”

**Revelation 3:20 (ASV)** <sup>20</sup> “Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to them, and will sup with them, and they with me.”

**John 8:32 (NIV)** <sup>32</sup> “Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

**John 14:2 (ASV)** <sup>2</sup> “In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

**John 14:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**John 14:18-19 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”

**John 14:25 (NIV)** <sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, (<sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth”) whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

**John 14:27 (NIV)** <sup>27</sup> “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Let not your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

**John 15:12 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

**Matthew 18:20 (ASV)** <sup>20</sup> “Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”



"Chill out. This is just my shopping list."

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



offthemark.com ©2001 Mark Parisi. Don't let Andrew Walker. Get a signed print of this comic: otmCartoon@aol.com



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"It's either another barrel of wine or the unicorns, Noah. There isn't enough room for both, so choose wisely."



### NON SEQUITUR WILEY



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WILEY-VCH, GMBH & CO. KG

June 2024							Jul 2024 ▶
◀ May 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							<b>1</b> -Say Something Nice Day
<b>2</b> -Nat'l Fish and Chip Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	<b>3</b> -Repeat Day	<b>4</b> -Hug Your Cat Day	<b>5</b> -Hot Air Balloon Day	<b>6</b> -Drive-in Movie Day	<b>7</b> -Nat'l Doughnut Day		<b>8</b> -Best Friends Day
<b>9</b> -Donald Duck Day 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	<b>10</b> -Iced Tea Day	<b>11</b> -Corn on the Cob Day	<b>12</b> -Red Rose Day	<b>13</b> -Sewing Machine Day	<b>14</b> Flag Day -Bourbon Day		<b>15</b> -Nature Photography Day
<b>16</b> Father's Day -Nat'l Fudge Day 9:30 Worship	<b>17</b> -Nat'l Eat Your Vegetables Day	<b>18</b> -Int'l Picnic Day	<b>19</b> Juneteenth -Sauntering Day	<b>20</b> Summer Solstice B'day: Greg Yashnik	<b>21</b> -Daylight Appreciation Day		<b>22</b> -Onion Ring Day
<b>23</b> -Typewriter Day 9:30 Worship	<b>24</b> -Swim a Lap Day B'day: Lee Cubie	<b>25</b> -Please Take My Children to Work Day	<b>26</b> -Chocolate Pudding Day	<b>27</b> -Helen Keller Day	<b>28</b> -Tau Day		<b>29</b> -Camera Day B'day: Annika Kanuckel-Wolfe
<b>30</b> -Meteor Watch Day 9:30 Worship	Care for Your Grandparents Month Men's Health Month National Camping Month National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month						



July 2024							Aug 2024 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> -Int'l Joke Day	<b>2</b> -I Forgot Day B'day: Mickey Gourley B'day: Ellen Kaiser	<b>3</b> -Compliment Your Mirror Day	<b>4 Independence Day</b> -Sidewalk Egg Frying Day	<b>5</b> -Workaholics Day	<b>6</b> -World Kissing Day	
<b>7</b> -Tell the Truth Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	<b>8</b> -Video Games Day	<b>9</b> -Sugar Cookie Day	<b>10</b> -Teddy Bears Picnic Day	<b>11</b> -Cheer Up the Lonely Day	<b>12</b> -Simplicity Day	<b>13</b> -Embrace Your Geekness Day B'day: Tim Wright	
<b>14</b> -Pandemonium Day 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	<b>15</b> -Gummi Worm Day	<b>16</b> -Corn Fritters Day	<b>17</b> -Yellow Pig Day	<b>18</b> -Caviar Day	<b>19</b> -Stick Out Your Tongue Day	<b>20</b> -Space Exploration Day B'day: Katie Beran	
<b>21</b> -Junk Food Day 9:30 Worship	<b>22</b> -Pi Appreciation Day	<b>23</b> -Vanilla Ice Cream Day	<b>24</b> -Cousins Day B'day: Nancy Gore	<b>25</b> -Culinarians Day	<b>26</b> -Uncle and Aunt Day	<b>27</b> -Take Your Pants for a Walk Day	
<b>28</b> -Milk Chocolate Day 9:30 Worship	<b>29</b> -Lasagna Day	<b>30</b> -Nat'l Cheesecake Day	<b>31</b> -Uncommon Musical Instrument Day	National Baked Bean Month National Blueberry Month National Grilling Month National Ice Cream Month			

## Hopewell United Methodist Church

c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors  
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Monroeville, OH 44847



### **Hopewell Church History**

1835 - George and Lydia Crouse deeded ½ acre to Benjamin Ellis & others, Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church for \$50.

1841 - Surveyor Thomas Hickman's map shows a Hopewell meeting house at the current site of Hopewell UM Church.

←1855 - A(nother?) meeting house was constructed at the current site, according to a Knox County history volume.

1915 - With the meeting house in much need of repairs, plans were made to replace it. The cornerstone of the new Hopewell M.E. Church was laid on August 1.

1916 - The new/current church was dedicated with three services and a lunch served at the Grange Hall on April 30.