

Hope Out of Darkness

Pastor Gregg Brenes

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." John 9:1-5

We live in a world broken by sin. (v.1-3a)

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned... Romans 5:12

Jesus came to deal with sin and death and call us back to God. (v.3b-5)

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Romans 5:17

In Christ, our ultimate hope is eternal life with God in heaven. (v.5)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Rev 21:1-4

We are called to restore the world back to God and bring hope to a broken world. (v.4)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Support the Maui relief efforts by giving at:
gracehonolulu.org/give
Select: "Maui Relief Fund"

Let's Connect

- When you were a child, were you afraid of the dark?

Let's Talk About It

The devastating disaster on Maui is a sober reminder that we (the church) are called to bring hope in a broken world. Because our world is broken by sin, we experience pain, natural disasters, suffering, and death. However, Jesus conquered sin and death by being our sinless sacrifice, and He will one day restore the world to its proper order. Until that day, we are called to be His ambassadors, bringing hope to a hopeless world and calling people out of the brokenness of this world and into eternal life. We are called to love people by serving others and sharing the Gospel—who Jesus is and what He has done.

Lamentations 3:21-26; John 9:1-7; Romans 5:12, 17; Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 3:17; John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1, 18-21

- Ready to take your next step to grow in your relationship with God? Use the app to register for our upcoming **Discipleship Track starting September 3** and our **Water Baptisms on September 10**.
- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read John 9:1-7. What does this scripture passage teach you about evil and suffering? What can you learn about God from this passage?
- Share a time when God used a painful part of your story for good. How does that give you hope when you see or experience the effects of evil & suffering?
- Read Revelation 21:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1. How does having a biblical perspective of eternity affect how you process crisis and loss in our broken world? Explain.
- What current opportunities do you have to serve and share your faith with someone going through a crisis or who is not walking with God?

Take a Step

- Take a step to live as Christ's ambassadors representing God's love and His kingdom.
- Support the relief efforts in Maui by giving at: gracehonolulu.org/give. Select: "Maui Relief Fund"

Here's My Prayer

Father, I believe that You will bring hope and eternal life out of the darkness of loss, pain, and suffering. Please bring me closer to You and show me how you want to work through me to bring the hope of Jesus into this world. In Jesus' name, amen.