

Choose

Hope

Who likes to watch
news on TV?

- Who doesn't like to
watch news on TV?

Hiawassee River



So Where's the Hope, Ya'll?

- What is God up too?
- Believe it or not, God is in the process of making all things new! That's where all this is going!

Romans 8:18-21 – World in Labor

18-21 That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back.

God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

Romans 8:22-25

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. (The Message)

1 Corinthians 15 – Resurrected & Renewed

- ⁵¹⁻⁵⁷ But let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I'll probably never fully understand. We're not all going to die—but we are all going to be changed. You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes—it's over.

51b-54 On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again. At the same moment and in the same way, we'll all be changed... Then the saying will come true:

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Death swallowed by triumphant
Life!

Who got the last word, oh,
Death?

Oh, Death, who's afraid of you
now?

Revelation 21 – Heaven Comes

Down to Earth

1 I saw Heaven and earth new-created. Gone the first Heaven, gone the first earth, gone the sea. 2 I saw Holy Jerusalem, new-created, descending resplendent out of Heaven, as ready for God as a bride for her husband. 3-5 I heard a voice thunder from the Throne:

"Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death is gone for good—tears
gone, crying gone, pain
gone—all the first order of
things gone." The Enthroned
continued, "Look! I'm making
everything new.

That's Then – What About Now?

- Our Mission – to Start to Live That New Way Now, to start to Love that way now.
- Our Mission – to Show Others the Good News!
- “Always be preaching the gospel (good news) – when necessary, use words.”
St. Francis

How Should We Then Live?

- I Corinthians 15:1-2 Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us.

Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

3-6 That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it.

1 Corinthians 15:13

Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

“The Blue Goose” 1971 Oldsmobile Delta 88



Choose Hope!

- Why? Jesus is making ALL THINGS NEW!
- Celebrate!
- Join Him, and live your life like you mean it.
- Really Love Each Other and Let That Love Splash Over to Others!

Come On, “Live Out Loud”! Steven Curtis Chapman



Imagine this

I get a phone call from Regis -
he says "Do you want to be a
millionaire?"

They put me on a show and I
win
with two lifelines to spare

Picture this
I act like nothing ever
happened
and bury all the money in a
coffee can

Well, I've been given more
than Regis ever gave away
I was a dead man who was
called to come out of my
grave

I think it's time for makin'
some noise . . .