## **Gospel Brunch: BLOG**

## **Sunday Feb.2, 2025**

## "Ushering in the Kingdom and the coming King"

Just as a reminder that the blogs for the gospel brunch will be available by link on our website lacalabriapizza.com. This link will take you to my website <u>racetothekingdom.org</u> that I would love for you to enjoy the articles and podcasts available there.

Our theme for our gathering at the last brunch was "hope". We have been through so much turmoil around the world and in our nation and in our daily lives that warrants such a needed topic. Our ultimate hope of course is the title written above for the promise of our Lord to return and set up His Kingdom on earth and give the inheritance promised to His faithful followers.

"For when God made <u>a promise</u> to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained <u>the promise</u>. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to <u>the heirs of the promise</u> the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement <u>to hold fast to the hope set before us</u>. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, **a hope** that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after <u>the order</u> of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 6:13-20 ESV

Melchizedek was both a king and priest. This combination can truly only be seen in one other and that is Jesus Christ! The hope that is an anchor to our souls is that we would be "the heirs of the promise". This promise was given to Abraham that his descendants would be numerous and blessed, and that they would inherit the land of Canaan. According to the book of Hebrews, whoever does this will finally enter their "rest" from all the wilderness wanderings. We segwayed this into a beautiful song called "living hope" by Phil Wickham. Please look this up again and enjoy the message, that because of the resurrection of Jesus we now have full confidence that He is the one to fulfill all these promises and to reflect that same hope into our daily lives in multiple ways.

The way in which He does this in our personal lives is why we love to open up the microphone to anyone that wants to participate in the assembly and share a word, testimony, or story. Our "hope" that people will participate in this actually comes from the heart of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian church:

"So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. If, therefore, **the whole church** comes together and **all** speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if **all** prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted **by all**, he is called to account **by all**, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you. What then, **brothers**? When you come together, **each one** has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up."

1 Corinthians 14:12, 23-26 ESV

I would like to give the next theme in advance of our upcoming gospel brunch on March 2 in hopes of everyone praying and seeking what the Holy Spirit would say to you in order to take part in the assembly. Our theme is "living in the larger Story of God" and how this affects your life as opposed to the smaller story of waking up and mainly just figuring out how to get through your day.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:9-10 ESV

Let us continue gathering daily in our homes, church buildings, ranches and restaurants to praise Him and offer the true worship the Father wants, "to worship Him in spirit and in truth" (Matt. 4:24)

Blessings and Maranatha!!