

## Hope Now: *Blake Bergstrom*

Some churches in America are a \_\_\_\_\_  
of God on earth.

**Mark 7:5-9** <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old customs? For they eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony." <sup>6</sup>Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was prophesying about you when he said, <sup>7</sup>"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. Their worship is a farce, for they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings." <sup>8</sup>For you ignore God's specific laws and substitute your own traditions." <sup>9</sup>Then he said, "You reject God's laws in order to hold on to your own traditions."

**Keep hope \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please don't allow the church of Jesus to become a  
\_\_\_\_\_ for hope.**

**Luke 7:11-17** <sup>11</sup>Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. <sup>12</sup>A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. <sup>14</sup>Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." <sup>15</sup>Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother.

**Live like \_\_\_\_\_ might not happen.**

**James 4:13-14** <sup>13</sup>And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today--at the latest, tomorrow--we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." <sup>14</sup>You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing.

**Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*"Live. And Live Well.*

*BREATHE. Breathe in and Breathe deeply.*

*Be PRESENT. Do not be past. Do not be future.*

*Be now."*