

The Gathering

BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 14, 2023

7:30 P.M.

Join us online via www.rayofhope.org,  **LIVE**, .

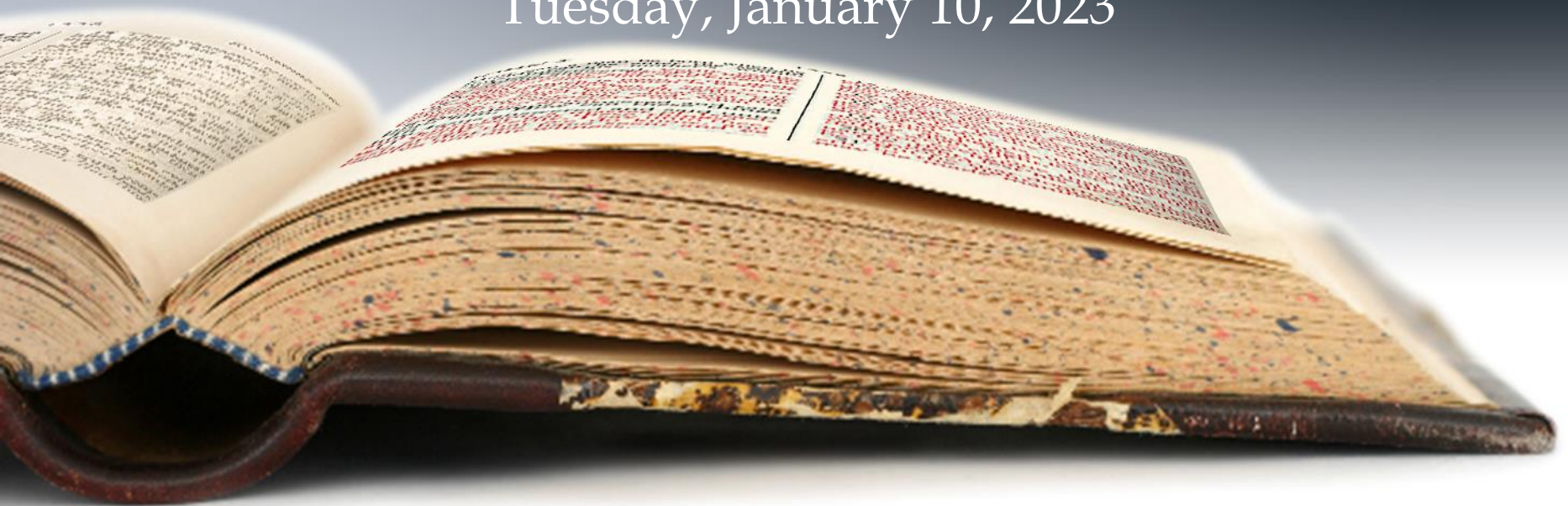
REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. HALE
SENIOR PASTOR



The Gathering

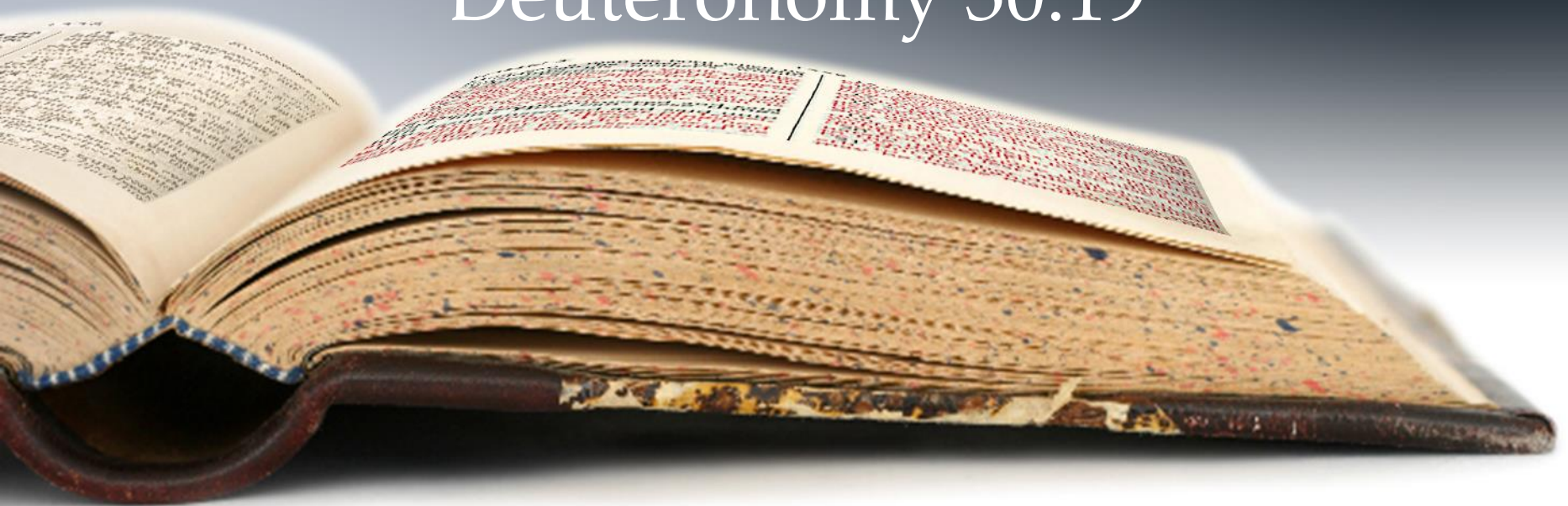
Choosing God's Love The Power of Personal Choice

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale
Ray of Hope Christian Church
Tuesday, January 10, 2023



This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curses. Now choose life so you and your children may live.

Deuteronomy 30:19



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.

John 3:16



10 Choices: A Proven Plan to
Change Your Life Forever
by Dr. James McDonald



We actually choose the life that we live now and if we want something different, we can choose to change it.

James McDonald



You have the power to choose.



We exercise our power to choose
every day of our lives.



It is not what happens to you,
but how you choose to respond
to it that makes the difference.



Discussion:

What decision or choice
are you faced with right now?



I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11



You decide what blesses or burdens your life by your choice.



Choose God's Love



Discussion:

Do you believe that God loves you? Are you convinced that God loves you? Why or why not?



Some of us
question or doubt God's love.



Being convinced that GOD loves you is evidence that you know him and understand his love.



First of all, God is love!
Love is God's nature.

I John 4:7-8; II Corinthians 13:11



God's love is universal.

John 3:16



God's love is sacrificial love.

I John 4:9,10



The whole process of salvation
was initiated by God because
God so loved the world.



I John 3:16 says, he gave himself
for you and for me.



God's love is an
undeserved love.

Romans 5:6-8



God's love is a merciful love.

Ephesians 2:4



God's love is a saving and
sanctifying love.

II Thessalonians 2:13



God loves us so much that
he didn't leave us the way
he found us.



God's love has adopted us
into his family and
made us his children.

I John 3:1



You must choose God's love.
As an act of your will,
you must choose to believe
that God loves you.



Some of us can't reconcile
a God of love with our trials.



Too often we define what God's love should look and feel like and expect God to conform to our definition of love in order for us to believe that he is love.



God's love is a protecting and perfecting love, but it is not always a preventing love.

James McDonald



I Peter 1:6-8



“For a little while, you may
have had to suffer grief
in all kinds of trials.”



The word “trial” is that undeserved, unexplainable difficulty which comes from without as opposed to the temptation to do evil, which literally comes from within.



Trials are serious – they should
not be taken lightly;
they are painful!



Be of good cheer.
I have overcome the world.
Trials are serious, but they are
also for a season.



Trials are seasonal because
they are controlled by the
sovereignty of God.



God's love is a chastening love.

Hebrews 12:6



God uses trials to perfect
our faith by examining,
testing and proving it.



“A faith that cannot be tested
cannot be trusted.”



By faith we persevere in our trials until God accomplishes his ultimate goal for pain in our lives, to mature us and conform us into the image of his son and our Lord, Jesus.



God's love is a strengthening love,
and we are never separated from it.

Romans 8:35, 37-39



Discussion:

What specific difference will being convinced that God loves you with a sacrificial, unconditional, protecting, and perfecting love make in your life?

