

**“Where to Find Hope”  
Romans 15:4; 5:1 - 5**

**Big Idea – Hope comes from knowing God and trusting His Word.**

College football fans knew the late Woody Hayes as a fierce competitor whose passion for winning once led him to slug an opposing player who intercepted an Ohio State pass. But when columnist Bob Greene interviewed him just before his final illness and asked if anything was as important as winning, Woody said yes. “The important thing is not always to win. The important thing is always to hope.”

Hope kept Red McDaniel going in his Vietnamese prison. For him to abandon hope, he wrote, was to abandon survival itself and with it his sense of self and all his personhood. The Jews at Auschwitz and Treblinka lived in daily horror and fear of dying, even as they saw other Jews die. Still, they never lost hope that they personally would survive. “Where there is life, hope must never be relinquished,” one said.

Last week, we looked at faith, and why that is an important factor in our lives. Without faith in God, hope cannot be found. Our old friend, The Oxford Dictionary of Current English, defines hope as “expectation and desire, e.g. for certain event(s) to occur.”

When we looked at faith last week, from Hebrews 11:1 we learned that “faith is the substance of things HOPED for.” Faith and hope are tied together. One can’t be present without the other. That’s not only true in spiritual areas, but personal ones as well.

Take little children at Christmastime for example. Little children are quick to write out their Christmas lists to Santa. They write down what toys they want. There is hope and faith. They believe that Santa will deliver the goods. They have faith in that. When they write the list, they hope it will reach Santa. The two, hope and faith, go together.

In our Christian walk, hope can be referred to as a type of Spiritual Insurance. We place our faith, and our hope, our expectations and desires, in the Lord.

Jeremiah 17:7,8 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose **hope** is the LORD. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep

into the water. Such trees **will not fear** when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and **will not be anxious** in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”

Psalm 1:2, 3 “But his delight is in the Word of God, and in His Word he meditates daily; so he will be like a tree planted by the rivers...his leaves will not wither, and whatever he does will prosper.”

One who trusts or hopes in God will not be free from trials and adversity, but God will bring fruit and blessing in and through those difficulties.

Where can we find hope in our difficulties?

## **1. The Origins of our Hope**

Our source of hope is in the **Promises in God’s Word**.

Romans 15:4 “Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. The Scriptures give us patience and encouragement so that we can have hope.”  
5 Patience and encouragement come from God.”

This quote from the Psalms reminds us that the Old Testament Scriptures were written for our learning. While they were not written directly to us, they contain invaluable lessons for us. As we encounter problems, conflicts, tribulations, and troubles, the Scriptures teach us to be steadfast, and they impart comfort. Therefore, instead of sinking under the waves, we are sustained by the hope that the Lord will see us through.

Psalm 119:49 “Remember your promise to me, for it is my only hope.

50 Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.

74 Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.

114 You are my refuge and my shield; your Word is my only source of hope.”

“We have twenty-five cents—and all the promises of God.” Hudson Taylor, in a letter to his wife during a trying time in the work of China Inland Mission

“I have thumbed my Bible many a year; I have never yet thumbed a broken promise. The promises have all been kept to me; not one good thing has failed.”  
Charles H. Spurgeon

How many promises are there? More than enough!

Dr. Everett R. Storms of Ontario spent a vast amount of time studying the promises of Scripture. Time Magazine in 1956 quoted him: “The Holy Scriptures contain a grand total of 8,810 promises. How do I know? I counted them. Dr. Storms goes on to classify the promises found in Scripture into eight kinds:

- There are 7,487 promises from God to man (about 85 percent of all the Bible’s promises).
- There are 991 instances of one person making a promise to another person.
- There are 290 promises from man to God.
- There are promises made by the angels, most of them found in Luke.
- There are nine promises made by “that old liar, the devil.” (For example, his promise to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if he would fall down and worship him.)
- Two promises are made by an evil spirit.
- Two are made by God the Father to God the Son.

What section of Scripture most impressed Dr. Storms? He wrote, “The most outstanding chapter as far as promises are concerned is Psalm 37. Practically every verse is a most wonderful promise.”

## **2. Objects of Our Hope**

### **God**

Psalm 38:15 “For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God.”

Psalm 62:5 “Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.”

Psalm 71:5 “O Lord, you alone are my hope. I’ve trusted you, O LORD, from childhood.”

Psalm 33:18 The LORD looks after those who fear him, those who put their hope in his love.”

Psalm 33:20 “So our hope is in the LORD. He is our help, our shield to protect us.”

Psalm 33:22 “LORD, show your love to us as we put our hope in you.”

Psalm 39:7 7 “So, Lord, what hope do I have? You are my hope.”

Psalm 31:24 “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”

Jeremiah 14:22 “Do foreign idols have the power to bring rain? Does the sky itself have the power to send down showers? No, it is you, LORD our God. You are our only hope, because you are the one who made all these things.”

## **Christ & Salvation**

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Note the Benefits listed here:

- peace with God through Jesus Christ.

- access into a position of favor with God. We are accepted in Christ, & are as near and dear to God as His own Son.

-hope of the glory of God. means that we joyfully look forward to the time when we will not only gaze on the splendor of God, but will ourselves be manifested in glory

-ability to glory in troubles—not so much in their present discomforts as in their eventual results. One of the by-products of tribulation is that it produces perseverance or steadfastness. We could never develop perseverance if our lives were trouble-free. When God sees us bearing up under our trials and looking to Him to work out His purposes through them, He awards us His Good Endurance Seal of Approval. We have been tested and approved. And this sense of His approval fills us with hope. We know He is working in our lives, developing our character.

Hope does not disappoint. If we were to hope for something but then later find that we were never going to get it, our hope would be put to shame or disappointed. But the hope of our salvation will never be put to shame.

## **Hope of Eternal Life**

Titus 1:2 “In **hope** of eternal life, which God Who cannot lie, promised before the world began.”

Romans 8:22 “We know that everything God made has been waiting until now in pain, like a woman ready to give birth.

23 Not only the world, but we also have been waiting with pain inside us. We have the Spirit as the first part of God’s promise. So we are waiting for God to finish making us his own children, which means our bodies will be made free.

24 We were saved, and we have this hope. If we see what we are waiting for, that is not really hope. People do not hope for something they already have.

25 But we are hoping for something we do not have yet, and we are waiting for it patiently.

We live in a sighing, sobbing, suffering world. The whole creation groans and suffers pain like that of childbirth. Nature’s music is in the minor key. The earth is racked by calamities. The blight of death is on every living thing.

We who are Believers are not exempt. Although they have the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing their eventual deliverance, they still groan for that day of glory.

We were saved in this attitude of hope. We did not receive all the benefits of our salvation at the moment of conversion. From the outset we looked forward to full and final deliverance from sin, suffering, disease, and death. If we had already received these blessings, we wouldn't be hoping for them. We only hope for what is in the future.

Our hope for deliverance from the presence of sin and the power of sin is based on the promise of God, and is therefore as certain as if we had already received it. So we eagerly wait for it with perseverance, with patient endurance.

## **Christ's Return**

Acts 1:9 "After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

10 As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them.

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Titus 2:13 "Looking for that Blessed Hope, and the Glorious Appearing of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

Faith in the eternal God offers a hope that despair cannot diminish. It brings an optimism that pessimism cannot eclipse. It builds a confidence that adversities cannot weaken. It instills a pleasure that pain cannot destroy—faith in the eternal God!

Romans 15:13 I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him. Then your hope will overflow by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 6:18 “These two things cannot change: God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. These things encourage us who came to God for safety. They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given.

19 We **have this hope as an anchor for our soul**, sure and strong.”