

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Romans 8 | Week 6: Hope in Christ

THIS HOPE IS...

A deep conviction in the nature and character of God that produces the trust that, at the appointed time, God will establish His perfect Kingdom.

ROMANS 5:1-5

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

"...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Week 6 of our sermon series on Romans 8 takes us to verses 24 and 25. Here, after reminding us of the inevitability of suffering, Paul anchors us in hope. Why do we need this hope, what is it, what effect does it have, and where does it come from?

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25

What must we see in this passage?

#1: Why do we need hope?

See Romans 5:1-5.

- Suffering will come and will work to move us away from Christ.
- Suffering will either produce anger and bitterness towards God, or it will produce a living hope that sustains us.

#2: What is hope?

It is specific: "**THIS**" hope..." (vs24)

- This hope is not generic ("I hope *this* or *that* happens"); it is specific.
- It is not ethereal: We don't *hope for hope* or just anything. This hope isn't like a daydream.
- Our hope is tangible –unseen, but tangible.
- *A natural outcome of a strong belief in something powerful.*

Hope is not baseless:

- It is anchored in something that's already occurred and we have received (salvation).
- It is also rooted in more than what we currently possess (future glorification) and is unseen...
- We hope in it because it isn't transient, it is eternal. (2 Cor 4:18)

Hope is anchored in faith and conviction of what has already occurred. "**THIS** hope..."

So, again, what is **THIS** hope anchored in?

1. Our salvation (See Romans 5:5)

HEBREWS 10:23

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

TITUS 2:11-14

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

ROMANS 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

DISCUSS:

1. We typically place our hope in what we love or treasure most. Are you trusting and longing for Christ's return and our future glory more than anything else? What fights most for that position in your heart?
2. Have you believed that you needed to produce the hope Paul refers to; and how does Romans 5:13 correct that? Note the use of the word *fill* here –what best positions us (practices or disciplines) to be poured into by the God of hope?

2. Our confession. (See Hebrews 10:23)

3. All of human history:

- OT prophecies fulfilled.
"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." **Genesis 3:15**

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
Romans 15:4

- Christ, Himself.
"To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." **Colossians 1:27**
- The resurrection of Christ (Christ first, then us).
"But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." **1 Corinthians 15:23**

Trust and hope go hand-in-hand. *"By faith we trust..."* that His Word is true, He's who He says He is, He did what He said, and will do all He said He will. We anchor everything in this hope. **This is why chipping away at good doctrine/theology is so dangerous –it kills hope by destroying the foundation of our faith.*

#3: What effect does hope have on the believer?

"...we wait for it with patience..." Patience is a willful commitment to wait with integrity.

See Titus 2:11-14.

Grace → Faith → Sanctification → Hope → Love

Hope isn't just ethereal, it compels us to action. *"...to be zealous with good works..."* (ie **love**; see [1 Corinthians 13](#))

- Love others (losing hope manifests as a lack of love).
- Build the Kingdom (evangelize).
- Connect with and serve the body (church).

When we face inevitable suffering (*loss, financial stress, health issues, broken relationships, loneliness, or the worry that the Gospel will never grab that certain someone, etc*) we need to know where our hope comes from!

#4: Where does our hope come from?

See Romans 15:13. The Holy Spirit!

We anchor ourselves in the goodness of our salvation, the confession of our faith, and absolute confidence in our Savior. Then, we walk in love and patiently await the appointed time when He comes again and restores us and His kingdom to glory.