



S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Dr. Delman Coates

Choose Hope

Romans 5:2; Romans 15:4, 13

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** You've probably heard the phrase, "Don't get your hopes up too high." The point of the expression is to discourage people from becoming too confident in a particular outcome or else they run the risk of being very disappointed should things not turn out the way they thought they would. And while the expression means well, the problem is that it derives us of that which is the lifeblood of life and living. For without hope, we lose our reason for being. Hope is to life what oxygen is to breathing. You can't make it without it. As believers, I want to remind you that the God we serve is a God of hope. His Word contains one admonition after another encouraging people in the face of loss that even if they lose everything around them, they must hold on to their hope. So with that in mind, I want us to look at three truths surrounding hope that we can hold onto when life starts to feel hopeless. **KEY POINTS** 1. Hope Anchors Our Lives Upon That Which Is Certain The context of Paul's discussion of hope begins in Romans 5, where Paul says, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Here Paul is trying to suggest that what gives the believer safety, security, and confidence called "peace" in the text, is when he or she makes decisions based upon hope. This is not just any kind of hope though. This is a godly hope, and not a worldly hope. Worldly hope carries with it the idea of taking your chances. When the word "hope" is used in the world, it conveys the idea of wishful thinking. But there is nothing wishful about the hope of God. Paul is talking about a godly hope that comes from a place of certainty, security, and safety. It is a hope on which we can rely. You can trust it. It is a firm foundation. Make no mistake about it. Godly hope isn't the same as worldly hope. Godly hope is something we can believe in and not just wish for. It is a hope that anchors our lives.

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2. Hope Gives Us Access To God's Help And God's	NOTES
Presence When our lives are anchored in Godly hope, in that which is	
stable, secure, and safe, we gain access to God's help and God's presence. Godly hope is God's answer to life's afflictions. Paul says in Romana 510, 4. "Through Him we have also obtained access by	
in Romans 5:2-4, "Through 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. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"	
Godly hope is the result of affliction because it is in affliction for	
the child of God that we encounter God's presence and receive God's help. It is easy to think we don't need God's help in times	-
when life is going well. But it is in affliction that we as believers are quick to turn to God when we realize we can't fix things on our	
own. This is what separates believers; we can have hope in the midst of affliction because of the access we have to God's help and	
God's presence.	
3. Hope Enables Us To Persevere Godly hope not only anchors our lives, and gives us access to divine help, but it also enables us to persevere. Godly hope is the fuel that enables us to keep going. Let's face it, it is hard to persevere when you do not know how things will turn out. When	
you have nothing to believe in, it is really easy for most people to just give up and give in.	
But when you have a godly hope, a hope that believes better is	
ahead, A hope that knows He is on your side and He will work things in your favor, you can persevere because the best is still yet to come.	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. What certain quality about God do you hold onto when your circumstances feel uncertain?
- 2. What is a tough circumstance or affliction you are currently facing? Have you asked God to help you in this situation? Why or why not?

3.	3. When was a time your hope in Jesus helped you persevere through a difficult circumstance? What did you learn from that experience of perseverance?	
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