

Sermon Series: Romans: Transformed by Truth

Today's Sermon: The Christian Hope

Text: Romans 15

Romans 15:13 (NIV) "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

What is the Christian hope, and why does Paul pray that we would overflow with it?

- Romans 15 begins the culmination of everything Paul's been saying since chapter 12.
- The transformation that Christ brings introduces a new way of thinking and produces a new way of living.
- This new way of living begins with a different orientation toward God and people.
- Romans 15 helps answer the question, "*How am I to live as a Christ-follower in a world rife with fear, division, and hopelessness?*"

Bottom line: Hope is not just a comfort—it's a calling.

The Christian Hope Is Not:	The Christian Hope Is:
Blind optimism	Biblical certainty (v. 4)
A wish	A guarantee (v. 8)
Built on circumstances	Built on God's character (v.9)
One day in the future	Here and now (v. 13)

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- **The Christian hope produces a new orientation toward others.**

Paul prays:

"May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus" (v. 5)

Christian behavior toward others is characterized by:

- Compassion. (v. 1)
- Selfishness (v. 2-3)
- Peace (v. 5)
- Acceptance (v. 7)
- In the Roman world, strength was used for **dominance**. But in Christ's kingdom, strength is used for **service**.
- In a world where **power** is the **prize**, Christ shows us that real strength means **serving**, not **superiority**.

II. The Christian hope is built on promises made and promises fulfilled.

"Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled." (v. 5)

The Scriptures were written not just to inform us but to form us.

- They form endurance when life gets hard.
- They bring encouragement when we feel like giving up.
- They produce hope when all the headlines signal despair.

Paul quotes **four Old Testament passages** to prove that God is true to His Word:

- **2 Samuel 22:50 / Psalm 18:49:** *"Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name."*
 - **Deuteronomy 32:43:** *"Rejoice, you nations, with his people."*
 - **Psalm 117:1:** *"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples."*
 - **Isaiah 11:10:** *"The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."*
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- The gospel isn't a detour in God's plan—it's the destination.
 - God's plan was always to bring all nations together—unified in Christ.

III. The Christian hope compels us to pursue the mission of God together.

"My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. I have been

following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand." (v. 20-21)

Hope is not just a **comfort**—it's a **calling**.

Hope is an **invitation** to:

- **Join** God in the **work** He is doing in the world.
- **Partner** with God's people to bring **good** news to a hurting world.
- **Trust** God for the final **outcome** in this world.

Revelation 21:1-7 (NIV): *"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children."*

When we are overflowing with hope, we will...

- **Bear** one another's burdens and **love** everyone.
- **Find** endurance and encouragement in **Scripture**.
- **Pursue** the mission of God **together**.

Reflection:

- Is God calling me to bear with someone—not to correct them, but to walk with them in love?
- Am I allowing Scripture to form my hope, endurance, and encouragement?
- What part am I playing in God's mission to redeem the world?
- Am I running on empty? Or do I need God to fill me with joy, peace, and hope by the power of His Spirit?

5 Questions

- Has anyone ever helped you through a difficult time in life?
- What was it like to have someone help bear your burden?
- What verses of Scripture have been a source of encouragement to you when you feel hopeless or discouraged?
- How does remembering God's past faithfulness give you hope for the future?
- Paul's ambition was to take the gospel to places where Christ had never been named. Where do you sense God inviting you to participate in His mission?