



Go for God!

The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 15:1-13

“Abounding In Hope!”

Introduction: The word *HOPE* is found FOUR times in Romans 15:1-13.

> HOPE is a confident expectancy. In the Bible, the word *HOPE* stands for both the act of hoping (Rom 4:18; 1 Cor 9:10) and the thing hoped for (Col 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3).

Hope does not arise from the individual's desires or wishes but from God, who is Himself the believer's hope: *"My hope is in You"* (Ps 39:7). Genuine *HOPE* is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future (Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1,7).

HOPE distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever, who has no hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). Indeed, a Christian is one in whom *HOPE* resides (1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:3).

In contrast to Old Testament hope, the Christian hope is superior (Heb 7:19). Christian HOPE comes from God (Rom 15:13) and especially His calling (Eph 1:18; 4:4), His grace (2 Thess 2:16), His Word (Rom 15:4) and His gospel (Col 1:23).

Hope is directed toward God (Acts 24:15; 1 Peter 1:21) and Christ (1 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:1). Its appropriate objects are eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7), salvation (1 Thess 5:8), righteousness (Gal 5:5), the glory of God (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27), the appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13) and the resurrection from the dead (Acts 23:6; 26:6-7). (From Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

> (v1-4) *Christians Have Scriptures of Hope!*

(v1) There's hope for the weak! – How can Christians help those who are in a time of weakness? There are four categories of weakness, one can be:

(1) Spiritually weak – We must pray for one another. (James 5:16)

(2) Mentally weak – We must disciple one another. (Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*)

(3) Emotionally weak – We must edify and comfort one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*)

(4) Physically weak – We must have compassion for one another. (1 Peter 3:8 - *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous*)

(v2) There's hope for our neighbor – Let's not please ourselves (1 Corinthians 13:5 - *Love seeks not her own*), let's please our neighbor by doing good to edify them. We must look for the opportunity to bless others.

(v3) There's hope for the sinner – Barnes writes, "We may see the kindness of the Lord Jesus in being willing thus to "throw himself" between the sinner and God; to "intercept," as it were, our sins, and to bear the effects of them in his own person. He stood between "us" and God; and both the reproaches and the divine displeasure due to them, "met" on his sacred person, and produced the sorrows of the atonement-his bitter agony in the garden and on the cross. Jesus thus showed his love of God in being willing to bear the reproaches aimed at him; and his love to "men" in being willing to endure the sufferings necessary to atone for these

very sins. If Jesus thus bore reproaches, "we" should be willing also to endure them. We suffer in the cause where he has gone before us, and where he has set us the example; and as "he" was abused and vilified, we should be willing to be so also."

(v4) There's hope for us throughout the Scriptures – Psalm 19:7-11; Jesus said, John 15:7-8 - *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

> (v5-12) Christians Have a Life of Hope!

(v5-7) The MIND of HOPE! - Philippians 2:1-4 - *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

> **THINK! THINK! THINK!** - Philippians 4:8-9 - *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

(v8) The VOICE of HOPE! - Jesus was a SERVANT for the TRUTH! Paul sets an example of being a "servant to all" in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

(v9-12) The HEART of HOPE! - These verses are to show that God's plan has always been to bring Jew and Gentile alike into His kingdom and to soften the prejudice of Christian Jews against their Gentile brothers, Paul quotes from the Law, the Prophets, and twice from the Psalms—all the recognized divisions of the OT—proving God's plan from their own Scriptures.

> What should Christian Gentiles be doing?

- (1) GLORIFY God for His mercy!
- (2) REJOICE with the Jewish brethren!
- (3) PRAISE the LORD! *Laud Him!* - (Gk. – *epaineo*) to applaud!
- (4) We have HOPE in the Second Coming of Christ and He shall reign in the Millennial Kingdom! – Revelation Ch. 20

> (v13) Christians Are Abounding in Hope!

> CHRISTIANS are filled with JOY and PEACE and abound in HOPE by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT! Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:3-5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

> The word ABOUND is *perisseuo* (per-is-syoo'-o); to SUPERABOUND (in quantity or quality), be in excess, be superfluous; also (transitively) to cause to superabound or excel!

LET'S SUPERABOUND IN HOPE! NOW LET'S GO FOR GOD!