

“The Hope Of Righteousness”
Galatians 5:5

Introduction:

1. To Begin Tonight - Please Turn With Me To:
 - The Very First Chapter Of The Very First Book:
 - In Our Bibles - Genesis 1!
 - Where - Of Course - We Find The Inspired Account Of God’s Creation Of:
 - “The Heavens & The Earth!”
 - But Instead Of Reviewing:
 - All The Days Of Creation - I Want To Focus Our Attention:
 - On 1:27 - Which Describes **How** God Created Everything:
 - That Is - The **Quality** Of His Creation!
 - 1:27 - “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good!”
 - Everything Was As Good As God Could Make It!
 - Everything Was Perfect!
 - It Was A Paradise!
 - But - It Didn’t Take Very Long:
 - For Everything To Change!
 - Now - We’re Not Sure How Long - But It Wasn’t Aeons Of Time Before Adam & Eve Rebelled & Sinned Against God!
2. In The Words Of Romans 5:12:
 - “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned!”
 - And Every Day Since - We Live With The Consequences:
 - Of That Sinful Choice:
 - And Of Our Own Sinful Choices!
 - Sin Has Affected Every Part Of God’s Creation!
 - Sin Has Infected Our Hearts & Souls:
 - And Sin Has Even Impacted Our Environment!
 - It Is Under A Curse - Paul Explains This:
 - In Romans 8:22 - “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now!”
 - “The Whole Creation Groaneth!”
 - Everything God Has Made:
 - Animal, Vegetable & Mineral - Everything Has Been Changed As A Result Of Sin!
 - Romans 8:23 - “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body!”
 - We Live As Broken People:
 - In A Broken World:
 - Because Of Sin!
 - 3. But One Of The Greatest Hopes:
 - That God Offers To Those Who Are Christians:
 - To Those Who Have “The Firstfruits Of The Spirit” (Romans 8:23):
 - Is The “Hope Of Righteousness!”
 - Where Everything Broken:
 - Will Be Fixed!
 - Where Everything Empty:
 - Will Be Filled!
 - And When Everything Wrong:
 - Will Be Made Right!
 - 4. And We Find This Hope:
 - In Galatians 5:5 - Which Will Be Our Primary Text Tonight:
 - So Please Head There With Me As Well:
 - Where We Read - “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!”
 - “The Hope Of Righteousness!”
 - Now - We Have Already Looked At:
 - Several “Points Of Hope” On Sunday Nights!
 - The Hope Of The Gospel!
 - The Hope Of Salvation!
 - The Hope Of Eternal Life!
 - The Hope Of His Calling!

- The Hope Of The Promise!
- Each One Of These Points Of Hope:
 - Give Us Just A Taste:
 - Of What God Has In Store For Every Person Who Has Jesus As Their Savior:
 - And God As Their Father!
- 5. But One Of The Greatest Treasures & Hopes:
 - That We Can Possess Today Is:
 - The Hope Of Righteousness!
 - Galatians 5:5 - “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!”
 - The First Thing We Come To In This Verse Is:

1. *The People Of This Hope!*

- That Is - The People To Whom:
 - This Great “Hope Of Righteousness” Belongs!
 - Paul Writes - “For We!”
- Of Course:
 - Paul Is Writing Primarily To:
 - Those Who Received The Gospel:
 - And Now Believe In The Gospel Of Christ!
 - And He Even Includes Himself:
 - In This Hope – Which Makes It:
 - A Very **Personal** Hope!
- The “Hope Of Righteousness” Belongs:
 - To Every Person Who Belongs To Christ!
 - It Can Belong To You & To Me!
 - This Means - That Everything Broken By Sin In Your Life:
 - Can And Will Be Fixed!
- Its **Your** “Hope Of Righteousness!”
 - Also See:

2. *The Patience Of This Hope!*

- According To Galatians 5:5:
 - We Are “Waiting” For This Hope:
 - The “Hope Of Righteousness!”
 - And We Are To Wait With Patience!
 - **IE:** Now - This Is Hard For Us To Do! Wait! We Are Very Impatient People, Aren’t We?
 - Especially In America! If Two People Are Ahead Of Us In A Check-Out Line At Walmart, We Expect Another Line To Be Opened Up!
 - We Want Things Now! Credit Cards! On Demand TV!
 - Of Course - This Sometimes Carries Over:
 - Into Our Spiritual Lives As Well!
 - We Want To See Results Right Now!
 - We Want Answers To Prayer Now!
 - We Want Changes In People Now!
 - We Want Victory Over Sin & Habits Now!
- Yet - Instead Of “On Demand” Spiritual Success & Results:
 - Which Causes Us To Frequently Look At & To Ourselves:
 - We Are Told In Galatians 5:5 That “We . . . Wait For The Hope Of Righteousness!”
 - To “Wait” Here Means To :
 - Look For & Long For Something!
 - Something That We Do Not Yet Have!
 - Something That Is Still In The Future!
 - But Something That **IS** In Store For You As A Christian!
- Romans 8:23 - “Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting** for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body!”
 - Looking For This!
 - Longing For This!
 - So - Even When It Comes To:
 - Righteousness - Our Christian Life Still Consists In Waiting!
- And We Can Echo The Words Of:
 - John Newton - “I am not what I ought to be — ah, how imperfect and deficient! I am not what I wish to be — I abhor what is evil, and I would cleave to what is good! I am not what I hope to be — soon, soon shall I put off mortality, and with mortality all sin and imperfection. Yet, though I am not what I ought to be, nor

what I wish to be, nor what I hope to be, I can truly say, I am not what I once was; a slave to sin and Satan; and I can heartily join with the apostle, and acknowledge, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'"

- As A Christian - You My Not Be What You Wish To Be - "Righteous!"

- This Should Be Your Longing!

- But - "Soon, Soon" - You Too Will "Put Off Mortality, And With Mortality All Sin And Imperfection!"

- You Will Be Righteous!

- And This Is Your Hope!

- So "Wait" For It!

- With Patience - Letting God Continue To Do His Gracious Work Of Sanctification In Your Heart & Life:

- Through His Word / His Spirit / His Church!

- But We Also See In Galatians 5:5:

3. ***The Power Of This Hope!***

- "For We Through The Spirit Wait For The Hope Of Righteousness!"

- Our Waiting & Looking & Longing:

- Is Not Natural - But Supernatural!

- It Is By And Through:

- The Work Of The Holy Spirit Of God!

- And We Are To Rely On:

- The Grace & The Strength & The Work Of God:

- Rather Than Our Own!

- Because - Ultimately - It Is God Who Will Accomplish:

- What We Are Waiting For!

- Philippians 1:6 - "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!"

- And One Part Of His "Good Work In You" Is:

- Righteousness!

- And Holiness!

- What Every True Christian Longs For!

- Even As David - Psalm 17:15 - "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness!"

- So - We Need To Stop Relying On Our Own Flesh:

- And Rely On The Power Of The Spirit:

- To Help Us Wait For & Hope For:

- The Righteousness That Is To Come!

- But We Also See In Galatians 5:5:

4. ***The Promise Of This Hope!***

- "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!"

- Faith & Hope Are Closely Related!

- You Can't Have One Without The Other!

- But Our Hope For Righteousness Springs From Our Faith:

- Our Faith In The Promises Of God!

- Our Faith Is Not In Things That Seem:

- "Possible!"

- Like The Works That We Are Able To Accomplish!

- There Are Good & Righteous Things That We Can Do As Christians!

- But - I Don't Know About You - But That's Still Not Enough!

- I Don't Just Want To Be "Good" - I Want:

- To Be Holy As He, Our Heavenly Father, Is Holy!

- To Be Righteous As He Is Righteous!

- In My Heart & In My Life:

- This Is Not Possible!

- So:

- Our Faith Is In What Seems:

- Impossible:

- But Are Made Certain By The Promises Of God!

- Like The Promise Given To The Apostle Paul:

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8 - "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: /

Henceforth there is laid up for me a ***crown of righteousness***, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing!"

- We Need To Focus On & Believe In:
 - This Promise Of God!
 - Not Just To Paul!
 - But To “All Them Also That Love His Appearing!”
 - For He Is The Only One Who Can Accomplish The Seemingly “Impossible” In Our Lives!
- And This Leads Us To:

5. *The Provision Of This Hope:*

- In Galatians 5:5 - “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!”
 - Our Hope Is Not:
 - Just A Wish For Something Good To Happen!
 - Instead - It Is:
 - Looking Forward To The Will Of God:
 - That **Will** Be Accomplished In Us!
- And Our Hope Is That One Day:
 - We Will Finally & Fully Be Conformed To The Character Of God Himself!
 - We Will Be “Made” As Righteous:
 - As He Has Already “Declared” Us To Be In Jesus!
- In The Context Of Galatians:
 - “Righteousness” Is What Many People Are Trying To Achieve:
 - When They Pursue The Law:
 - Any Law – On Their Own, In The Flesh!
 - Yet - This “Righteousness” Is Something:
 - Reserved Only For Those Who Believe:
 - And Is Still Yet To Come!
 - But When It Comes - What Kind Of Righteousness Will It Be?
- It Will Be A Complete Righteousness!
 - Philippians 3:9 - “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith!”
- It Will Be A Christ-Like Righteousness!
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30 - “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption!”
- It Will Be A Constant Righteousness!
 - You Will Never Have To Struggle With:
 - A Broken Heart In A Broken World:
 - Ever Again!
 - Revelation 19:6-8 - “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. / Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. / And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints!”

Conclusion:

1. Galatians 5:5 - “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith!”
 - Is This Your Hope Tonight?
 - If So - You Can Say & Sing From Your Heart:

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!”

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