

Pt 25 Romans 8:24-27, Saved By Hope

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Romans 8:24-27

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25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for it.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

We pick back up in our text this morning in the middle of Romans chapter 8 where Paul is describing the future glory that awaits us in Christ Jesus. This is in answer to what he had just said in the previous two verses. Let's read those so we have this in proper context: **Romans 8:22-23** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 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.

As we studied last time, Paul says that not only is all of creation groaning waiting for the return of the Lord but we too are groaning and waiting for our salvation to come to fruition. That is why our opening text in verse 24 starts out with the word "**For**." Let's look at it.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Paul starts out making a bold statement; "**For we are saved by hope**."

Let's stop there for a little bit and see how this squares up with the rest of the Scripture and what we know about being saved (salvation).

First, let's remember what Paul said in **Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Those are some of the greatest verses in all the Bible. We cling to these truths as proof that we can be saved without any kind of works or laws involved, all we simply do is have faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ (the Gospel) and by God's grace we are saved. So, Paul says we are **saved by Grace through FAITH** here.

But what about in our opening text where he says, "**we are saved by HOPE**"? Which is it, faith, or hope?

Well, turn over to **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the *evidence of things not seen*. The word "**substance**" means "**the essential part of what something is made of**." I think where we misunderstand things is in our modern English, we use the word "**hope**" in a different way than is used in our Bible.

To us, the word hope has some uncertainty to it. Like, "*I hope I make an A on my history exam*." We have no certainty in that it will happen - it is more of a "**wish**" for something that hasn't happened yet. It may or may not happen. We might get an F, but we HOPE we get an A.

But in the Bible, the word hope has certainty, there is no doubt or chance of it not happening, even though it is a future event. Just like it said in **Hebrew 11:1b... the evidence of things not seen**." My hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ and my hope awaits for me in Heaven. I didn't see Jesus die but I believe it. I have faith in that and there is where my hope lies.

Now, we put faith and hope together, and we get what Paul said in **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore being justified **by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice **in hope** of the glory of God.

Essentially, faith and hope are **two sides of the same coin**. You can't have one without the other.

Paul goes on to write in the next part of **verse 24...but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?**"

That makes perfect sense to me. If you are expecting something to come and it comes then you no longer hope for it because it is your current possession.

The hope that we have in Christ, the hope that we have in our future glory and redemption is a future hope that we are looking forward to.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

The world has hope in the government or some man to provide all the answers but that's not hope at all because all these things are temporal.

A lot of false religions promise an immediate hope of healing or prosperity. They cry out **name it and claim it**. They appeal to the greed in human flesh. They make merchandise of those that follow them. There is no hope in any of that junk.

2 Peter 2:1-3

1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Benny Hinn can hit you with his coat all day long but there's no hope in Benny Hinn's coat.

Our hope is eternal hope. We have faith in this blessed hope that is promised in God's Word – not man's word but God's Word.

The Word of God does promise us **healing** but it will be after we leave this rotten sick earth and receive a glorified body.

The Word of God does promise us a place of rare splendor, beauty, and perfection – but not on this earth. Jesus said “in my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you.” Just read Revelation chapters 21 and 22 where it talks about a New Heaven and a New Earth and the New Jerusalem in which we will live in.

The Word of God does promise us eternal life and life everlasting, but not in this body and on this earth. We are promised a place where there is no death, dying, rot, or decay. No cancer, heart problems, diabetes, or high blood pressure. Where the curse of sin has been lifted.

So, the true Christian is not placing hope in the here and now but rather in the here after – in the Sweet Bye and Bye and that is what we wait for.

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

The hope that we have yet to see is factual and we are patiently waiting for it to come to light.

That word patience is a two-edge sword. We all want it but we don't want to go through what it takes to get it.

Our world is so rushed, and we expect everything immediately.

Amazon is building a big distribution center just 12-miles from our house. From what I understand when it becomes operational, we will be able to get Amazon deliveries the same day we order them. A lot of people are looking forward to that, myself included. Because two-day shipping is just waaaay too slow!

We bought a recliner online last week and it shipped the next day. I was able to track it online and receive emails and text messages or keep up with it in a mobile app. I could watch the delivery truck making the stops and get an estimate of when they would arrive at my driveway.

We had already given our couch away that we were replacing with the recliner. I watched that truck in the mobile app go all around us and about the time it was supposed to stop at our house, I watched it drive back to the shipping hub for the night. I was beyond furious. I was getting very impatient.

The next day, I started tracking it early in the morning, received the notices that it would be at our house in a certain time frame – I kept waiting and waiting and before it got to our house, they sent an email saying they had attempted to deliver it and no one was home. I knew it was a lie and I was about to pop a blood vessel.

Finally, 3-days after it was supposed to have been delivered, the guy showed up and dropped it off. By that time, I was over it. I hadn't even been tracking it that 3rd day. I had given up hope that it was even going to be delivered. I wasn't even excited when

I got it in the house and set it up. I've only sat in it a few times. I no longer have any hope in that recliner because I've already seen it. -- What I'm trying to say is, we get awfully tied down to this world and are always rushing to get things done and before you know, this life will be over and none of it will be worth a hill of beans.

It is already August 1st 2021 – there are only 152 days left of this year. It seems like only a few weeks ago we were opening Christmas presents and now it is only 145 days away. There is absolutely no reason for us to put any hope on this earth because it will soon be gone. But the hope that lies before us in Heaven will be worth it all. We just need to patiently wait on it and realize that Heaven's timetable is not the same as Earth's timetable.

I think about a lady that used to live next door to us. Her name was Belle McDaniel but we called her Grandma Belle. She was born in 1912. When we first met her in 1995, she was 83-years old. We used to go over and sit on the porch with her, and she would rock back and forth looking out toward the sky and say she was ready to go, she just wanted to leave this old world. She lived to be 96-years old. For the 13-years that we knew her she waited patiently.

I like what Paul says over in **Philippians 1:20-23** According to my earnest expectation **and my hope**, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, *whether it be by life, or by death.* 21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*

Sometimes we wonder if God even cares about the things that we go through. We pray about something and never seem to get an answer.

Have you ever just not known what to pray? Well, here in our Bible we are told why that happens – it is because of our “infirmities.” That means our weaknesses due to our mortal flesh. The truth is we just don't know what to do or what to say.

I'm thankful that in those times of weakness, the Holy Spirit steps in and says **“I got this!”**

The Holy Spirit knows our minds and our hearts. It says in **verse 27** that he “searcheth the hearts and makes intercession for us.” And, it is all according to God's will.

I am not going to expound on verse 28 today because it will take a full message to cover that verse by itself, but just to finish off this morning I want us to read it:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his purpose.*