

Sermon notes
www.usbc.org/sermons

© USBC – www.usbc.org.uk
Sunday 04 January 2008

The Hope that Inspires Romans 5.1-11

Rev David Blandford



And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5.5

Ever since I heard a sermon called “Eagle Christians” based on Isa 40.31 I have been inspired by Eagles; Majestic birds that glide in the sky.

... those who **hope** in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

As we enter into a new year with the opportunities and challenges that will present we can have hope for today and for the future.

Jeremiah 29.1-13 Hope when it appears Hopeless

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen. ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

To a disenchanted hopeless people living under compulsory exile God brings a message of hope. In doing so he is providing them with a future and saying that far from God being out to destroy his people, he has good plans in store.

Romans 5.1-11 The Hope that does not end in a dead end!

The Apostle Paul writing to Christians in Rome living in the very epicentre of the Roman Empire, makes them aware that in God there is one who gives this hope – this reason to live for. Such hope is far greater than what the Emperor or Rome itself could offer.

Such hope is received with many other gifts initially by

- **Faith**

Romans 5.1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith.

Paul is emphasizing in his letter that there is no way anyone can be good enough to earn a relationship with God. Our acceptance by God and our adoption into his family is made possibly because of Jesus. Jesus – the gift of hope is the one who gave his very life for us as Romans 5.8 expresses.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

This amazing gift is received as we take God at his word.

- **Peace with God**

Romans 5.1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

The enmity that our broken relationship with God caused has been bridged by Jesus, as we have received Christ so we receive peace with God. Of all relationships, being at peace with God is the most important, from this God can help us in building healthy relationships with others.

- **Joy**

Romans 5.3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Romans 5.11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

God intends us to experience joy in this New Year. This is not the same as happiness it is not dependent on everything going well all the time. Paul emphasizes that we can know joy even in the middle of difficulties. The reason being is that spiritually it's like being in the gym where the muscles of endurance can develop. It is not that this is enjoyable but it can be fruitful. We can be joyful too in that as well as God being the almighty transcendent God, he through Jesus is also our friend.

We need to remember that Paul is writing to the Church in Rome that is to Christians. It is wonderful to have God as our friend but God also intends for us to have friends within and outside of the Church

- **Hope**

Romans 5.5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

We can be confident as we enter this New Year because our hope is not based on a wish but on the reality of what God has done and is doing. Not only has He given us His Son– the Lord Jesus (see v8,) but He has given us the Holy Spirit and the reason is - to fill us with love.

New Year Revolutions

NIV 1 Cor 13.13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The Message¹³ But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Our hope rests on those things which will last. Of these there are 3 – faith, hope and love.

They are not going to evaporate even in these more difficult economic times. So it's what we do with what God has given to us. I love the message paraphrase. These 3 things can help us to bring about a revolution.

Trust steadily – this is a tough call. Life can be cruel and holding onto God is not easy. Yet our readings from the Bible reveal why God can be trusted. There is still much that I do not understand yet I do believe although I can misunderstand God I can still trust Him. What is of greatest importance is that He is able to hold onto us.

John 10.28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Hope Unswervingly – we are reminded that the thermal currents keep the eagle in the air; our hope can be in God whose resources do not get exhausted.

Love extravagantly – God gives us these good things not to hoard but to share. As we share his love so God is able to continually pour his love into our world.

We live in a world where often people are starved of love – who are you wanting to discover God's love this year!

For Small Groups

Use these Bible passages to provide inspiration. Thank God for this past year and bring to God your hopes for this year.