

## Living with Hope

- **Day One—Read Psalm 18:1-6; Romans 15:4-6, 13.**

What is the “rock” of your life? What is the “horn” (source) of your salvation? How does the Apostle Paul connect hope with God’s Word? What part does our “endurance” play in us finding hope through God’s Word?

**Pray** and thank God for his Word. Ask Him to help you identify false sources of hope in your life. Ask him to help you keep your eyes on him for hope!

- **Day Two—Read Romans 15:4-6, 13 (again); Hebrews 10:25; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.**

It’s easy for us to lose hope in these difficult times we’re living in. Why is the encouragement of each other so often tied to hope in the New Testament?

**Pray** – Right now, pray for someone you know who might need encouragement and hope. Let the Holy Spirit bring people to mind, see their face, listen for prophetic leading in how to pray for them.

- **Day Three—Read Romans 15:4-6, 13 (again); John 14:1; 16:33; 1 Peter 5:6-7; Romans 5:3-5**

Jesus said that our hope would come from a dynamic relationship with him through the Holy Spirit. Peter called our hope a “living hope” because it comes from our living Lord Jesus! Paul says in Romans 5 that hard times can develop character in us and bring hope because we see his work in our lives. How have you discovered the living hope of Jesus in the hard times you’ve faced?

**Pray** – Thank God for his faithfulness in your life! Thank him that he is trustworthy and is the source of true and lasting hope!

### New Life Lessons

February 28<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Pastor Ron Salsbury

## “Our Hope in the Face of Despair”

### More Great Buts of the Bible #3

Psalm 18:1-6, 16-18; Romans 15:4-6, 13; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 3:15

**Psalm 18:17-18** (NIV) <sup>17</sup> The Lord rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. <sup>18</sup> They confronted me in the day of my disaster, **BUT** the LORD was my support.

**Romans 15:4-6, 13** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have **hope**.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>13</sup> 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. *elpis* – “confident anticipation, God’s gift”

## Three Possible Attitudes in Life

- **Our Past – Regret or Gratitude?**

*How has God been faithful to us in the past?*

*Are we living in the power of forgiveness?*

- **Our Present – Anxiety or Peace?**

*How is God showing himself to us presently?*

*Are we trusting God in the things we can’t control?*

*How is peace really possible in the storm?*

- **Our Future – Fear or Hope?**

*What is it that gives us hope for the future?*

*Do we really believe that our future is good?*

**Hebrews 11:1-2** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Now faith is being **sure of what we hope for** and **certain of what we do not see**.

## ***Three Reasons for Our Hope***

### ***1. The Faithfulness of God's Word .***

**Romans 15:4** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 1 Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 6:19a

**1 John 1:9** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Psalm 42:5b, 11

**John 20:30-31** (NIV) <sup>30</sup> Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. Isaiah 1:18; 41:10; 43:1-3a

**Psalms 119:74** (NLT) <sup>74</sup> May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word.

**1 Peter 3:15** (NIV) <sup>15</sup> In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. Matthew 7:24-29

### ***2. The Encouragement of God's People .***

**Romans 15:5-6** (NIV) <sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

**1 Timothy 4:10a** (NLT) <sup>10</sup> This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God. John 6:29; Hebrews 3:12-13

**Hebrews 10:25** (NIV) <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Psalm 90:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 1 Corinthians 14:1

### ***3. The Power of God's Spirit .***

**Romans 15:13** (NIV) <sup>13</sup> 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. Hebrews 4:16

**John 14:1** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. *tarassō – "stirred up, agitated"*

**John 16:33** (NIV) <sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *thlipsis – "pressure, persecution, trouble"* John 14:18-19, 23; Romans 5:3-5 *sufferings > perseverance > character > hope*

### ***So, What's Our Strategy to ...***

- ***Trust in the Faithfulness of God's Word?***
- ***Be Encouraged by God's People?***
- ***Discover the Power of God's Spirit?***

**Ephesians 5:18** (NIV) <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 Peter 5:6-7; John 15:5, 7, 11; 1 Peter 1:3-9