

7. The hope of glory

Romans 5:1-11

Introduction

How important is it to have hope? What place does 'hope' have in our lives? What are people like who feel there is no hope?

Hope is an important aspect of our lives. It's a sense of hope that often sustains us through times of difficulty and adversity. In verse 1 to 11 of chapter 5 Paul reveals our hope as believers. Having demonstrated that people are justified by faith in Christ in chapters 1 to 4 from the beginning of chapter 5 he now begins to explain the life that characterises the justified.

The hope of glory

1. The hope of glory is one of two blessings that the believer is said to enjoy in 5:1-2. Please read these verses and explain what the other blessing is.

Our boast

The word "to rejoice" in verses 2 and 3 and 10 is the word "to boast".

2. How do people receive these blessings?

Think about it

What is the hope of glory? What is the apostle talking about (see Romans 8:18-25)?

Hope for troubled times

These two blessing of course are closely related. The focus of these verses is on the hope of glory, which comes as a result of having peace with God. This hope is one that we can rejoice in now even though we might go through difficulties. Please read 5:3-5.

3. What response does Paul say that believers are to have towards suffering and why?

4. How do we know that our hope won't let us down?

Think about it

Do you think that Paul was just being naïve about rejoicing in suffering (2 Corinthians 11:21-29)?

How do Christians today generally regard suffering? Should we expect it (see John 16:33, 17:13-16, Acts 14:22) and if so why? Do you think that most Christians are expecting difficulties and are prepared?

How can suffering ultimately produce hope in a believer (see also Romans 8:17)?

Hope that won't let you down

Our hope won't let us down for it is founded on the love of God for us. The love of God has been demonstrated for us in the gospel. Please read verse 6 to 8 to understand more of this love.

5. Who exactly did Christ die for and what were they like?

6. Why was it the “right” time?

Think about it

Why were we powerless?

How is the gospel a demonstration of God’s great love for us?

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The hope of glory

The hope of glory is founded on the love of God that we see in the gospel. Please read verse 9 to 10 to discover more about this hope.

7. Why did Christ die for the ungodly?

8. What will those who have been justified be saved from (c/f 1:18, 2:5-11)?

9. Why will they be saved?

Think about it

What is the hope of glory?

What other hopes are believers tempted to build their lives on?

How can trouble help us to have the right perspective?

What are to be the grounds for the believers rejoicing?

Going Further

1. Please learn Romans 5:8. This verse reminds us of just how much God loves us.
2. Please prepare the next study in advance or at least please read Romans 5:12-20 a number of times in preparation for the study.
3. Please read Genesis 5 to trace the working out of God's judgement on Adam and his descendants. How do we see the judgment of God working out? What glimmer of hope do we see in this genealogy?