


Not Without Hope

Teaching Tips

July 24, 2016

Bible Study Guide 8

Words You Should Know

A. Hope ([Romans 5:2](#)) *elpis* (Gk.)—Confidence; assurance based on the past with a strong eye to the future, or on firm convictions derived from the reliability of God and His promises. 

B. Reconciled (v. 10) *katallasso* (Gk.)—Having a renewed relationship that has changed from hostility to friendship.

Teacher Preparation

Unifying Principle—Got Hope? People are weak, endure suffering of different kinds, do wrong, and face various enemies all around them. What sustains Christians in the midst of these difficulties? Paul tells the Romans that, through faith in Christ and with the presence of the Holy Spirit, God has given them reconciliation and hope.

O—Open the Lesson


A. Open with prayer and have the students read the Aim for Change silently.

B. Introduce today's lesson title.

C. Read the In Focus then ask, "Why is the theme of hope important to Christians today? Do you believe the secular world is open to hearing about hope in Jesus?"

D. State that hope has past, present, and future implications; our hope today is rooted in what God has done for us and what He has promised to do for us in the future.

P—Present the Scriptures

A. Ask a volunteer to read [Romans 5:1–11](#). 

B. Know your verses well, and summarize them in a verse-by-verse format for the students; or use an overview if time is short.

C. Use the background material to substantiate your teaching (including information from The People, Places, and Times; Background; Search the Scriptures; In Depth; and More Light on the Text).

E—Explore the Meaning

A. Read aloud selected verses of the hymn "The Solid Rock" and ask the students to consider while you are reading, "How does this reflect the theme of the lesson today?"

B. Have one group discuss how [1 Thessalonians 5:8–11](#), sheds further light on today’s text in Romans. Have the second group read [Philippians 4:8–9](#), and after discussion, present to the class how these verses complement the text in Romans.



C. If there is time allow students to complete activities in Precepts for Living Study Guide

N—Next Steps for Application

A. Remind the students that our hope is based on the permanence of our salvation.

B. Have the students pray silently, with attention to showing hope in tribulation.

Worship Guide

For the Superintendent or Teacher

Theme: Not Without Hope

Song: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Devotional Reading: [Psalm 42](#)



Bible Background • [ROMANS 5:1–11](#)



Printed Text • [ROMANS 5:1–11](#) | Devotional Reading • [PSALM 42](#)



Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** Paul’s encouraging words about peace, endurance, character, hope, and love as gifts God gave through the death of Jesus; **FEEL** that God’s provision of the Savior is His continuing commitment to His creation; and **TAKE** hope through Jesus Christ into the difficult times in life.



In Focus

Darrell had lost his job and was struggling with his future. The door seemed closed now in the field he had trained in, and there did not seem to be much hope. He had been looking for other work, another direction, or just some light at the end of the tunnel for going on five years. Nothing seemed to turn up.

He began to struggle with his faith. He was wondering why God, who said He cared so much for His children, would not open doors for him even while he tried so hard. He even began wondering if anyone was listening when he prayed.

Once when his feelings of frustration seemed to hit an all-time high, Darrell read in his Bible, “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” ([Romans 5:6](#)). Suddenly, it became clear to him how lonely and weak Christ must have felt when He prayed on the Cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” Yet, the Lord suffered willingly for the ungodly, even for Darrell.



Darrell’s hope began returning. His job outlook was not any better, but God was now in his outlook. He realized he could learn to walk these dark days when he had faith that assured him that Jesus cares for those “without strength.”

We have hope in Christ. How do we keep our hope in Christ when we are faced with various trials and tribulations?

Keep in Mind

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” ([Romans 5:5](#)).



Focal Verses

KJV

Romans 5:1 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.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

NLT

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.

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.

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.

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good.


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

9 And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation.



10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

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




The People, Places, and Times


The Apostle. Apostles were literally “the sent out ones.” God called them, equipped them, and then sent them to establish His Word among His people. The Apostle Paul was, as he said, an apostle “born out of due time” ([1 Corinthians 15:8](#)) meaning he was late to be called one of the apostles. He was, in fact, an enemy to the early church until God plucked him out from among his Pharisaical brothers. 

However, Paul showed the same zeal in serving Christ that he had shown in persecuting Him and His people. In our focal verses today, we see several characteristics of Paul that are important to our study. 1) He was radically changed completely taken with his Master. His loyalty to Jesus was unimpeachable, and he was driven to get others to follow with the same zeal. 2) He was completely convinced of salvation by grace. In these verses, he showed that this salvation gives a new perspective, one that carries us through even the toughest times.

Redemptive Tribulations. Few themes are more distinctive of our faith than that of tribulations resulting in positive net values ([Matthew 5:10](#); [Romans 8:35–37](#); [2 Corinthians 12:9–10](#); [James 1:2–3](#)). We find thinking like this outside of Christian thought, but not to the same extent. Our faith can mirror what Jesus did on the Cross: what appears to be complete failure can be, in fact, great victory. 



Background

Paul is in the middle of his argument about justification by faith in [Romans 4](#). He points to Abraham and his righteousness being imputed by God before the Law was given. He illustrates that God imputed righteousness to Abraham because of his faith in God’s promise that he would be the father of many nations. The example of Abraham is given to the Romans to show the kind of faith in Jesus that justifies one before God. This faith can sustain us in the midst of difficulties. 



The Christians in Rome had to deal with a cruel, militaristic, and threatening government. They certainly felt the weight of this kingdom and its displeasure. Jesus’ death had been ordered by Roman officials (with the help of some of the Jews), and He had told His followers, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” ([John 15:18](#)). 

It is hard for us to understand how greatly tribulation was a part the lives of these believers, but it was extensive. Paul spoke to people who had every natural right to be fearful, but he reminded them to base their courage on the supernatural event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The King of kings had the final word even over mighty Rome. Paul encouraged them to let this fuel their hope in tribulation.

At-A-Glance

1. Justification Offers Hope in Tribulation ([Romans 5:1–5](#)) 
2. Help for the Helpless (vv. 6–8)
3. The Reconciliation of God Leads to Our Joy (vv. 9–11)

In Depth

1. Justification Offers Hope in Tribulation ([Romans 5:1–5](#))



Paul indicates in these verses that this justification (the opposite of condemnation) gives us hope, even by way of tribulation. It is clear, especially in verses 1 and 2, that our part is faith. Faith introduced us to the grace that justifies us and keeps us in the hope that it offers. Therefore, faith carries us through any tribulation so that we might have the hope that is the promise of salvation.

Paul explains that tribulation leads through several steps to hope, but what produces this hope is the establishment of character. Character is established not by our suffering, but by our patience in suffering. Paul concludes this section by showing that through this process the Holy Spirit communicates God's love to us (v. 5). His love enables us to endure tribulations and hard times.

2. Help for the Helpless (vv. 6–8)

Several versions of the Bible translate the word in verse 6 as “helpless” (e.g. NASB and NLT). The KJV has “without strength.” Paul states that when it comes to our spiritual state, we are helpless without the person and work of Christ.

We see that the word “die” or “died” appears frequently in these verses, four times in three verses. Three of the references are pointing to Christ's death rather than our own. His death is the crucial pivot where our helplessness becomes strength. Paul says in verse 8 that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. He did not expect us to be self-sufficient before He helped us, nor did He disdain our sinfulness—His death for us is the proof and substance of His love.

3. The Reconciliation of God Leads to Our Joy (vv. 9–11)

In these final verses of our text, Paul continues to expound on the benefits of our justification. We are justified and therefore saved from wrath. We have atonement with God which gives us joy. We have been reconciled to God and therefore saved by the life of Christ. In verse 9, Paul uses the phrase “much more,” and again in verse 10. Then in verse 11 he adds, “And not only so...” He piles one benefit upon another. He is overcome with the positive nature of our standing in Christ! Our justification through Jesus' blood has moved us from helplessness to being reconciled, no longer under His wrath but now sharing His life, which leads to our joy.

Here Paul makes an extraordinary statement: God's love reconciled us through Christ. In contrast to the heresies that state that the Father was vengeful and appeased by Jesus who alone loves, God's love brought about our salvation through His Son.

Search the Scriptures

1. How is it possible to “glory in tribulations” ([Romans 5:3](#))?
2. How can we harmonize God's love and His wrath (vv. 8–9)?



Discuss the Meaning

The world can suck up our hope, but it has always been this way. As followers of Christ, we will need to understand how to allow His hope into our lives.


1. How can we connect our redemption to a daily hopeful outlook?
2. How can we clearly see those who need hope and then share His hope with them?

Lesson in Our Society

It is interesting that the Scripture never presents living in faith and being hopeful as requests but as commands. We should keep in mind that the Lord is aware of our weaknesses even more than we are. He also knows our enemies and challenges but still requires our victorious outlook. When we are fearful and unsettled, then it shows we are not focused on His assurances.

Our believing brothers and sisters need to see our hope in the Lord. Our hopeless world needs to see our hope as well. When we correct our relationship with Christ—when our daily walk is firm—we will grow in the ability to share this hope.

Make It Happen

We choose first to believe the Lord. When we say with Joshua, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” ([Joshua 2:15](#)), we have chosen to trust Him with our lives. When we choose to act this way, then we follow with actions and thoughts that reflect that. 

Today, commit your life anew to God’s truth. Consider all thoughts that dishonor Christ as enemies, and choose not to allow them a place in your life.

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do.

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned.

More Light on the Text

[Romans 5:1–11](#)

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the close of there fourth chapter, Paul completes his teaching on how God justifies a person. Justification is the initial blessing of salvation, but it carries with it all the other blessings of Christian life. In chapter 5, Paul launches into an explanation of eight attendant blessings of justification by faith. Because we are justified by faith, we have “peace with God” (v. 1); “access” to God’s presence and a standing in grace, joy, and “hope” (v. 2); “the love of God” and “the Holy Ghost” (v. 5); we are “saved from wrath” (v. 9), and “saved by his life” (v. 10).

Another literal translation of verse 1 is “Since we have been justified by faith, we continually have peace with God.” In the Greek, “justified” is in the aorist aspect, which points to an accomplished fact. This illustrates that justification is not a process, but rather an instantaneous act that takes place at the moment a sinner accepts Christ as Lord.

The phrase “we have peace with God” could also be translated “we continually have peace with God.” The verb “to have” is from the Greek present tense verb *echomen* (Gk. **EH**–koh–men), which means to keep on having or enjoying our peace with God. Those who are justified are privileged to “have peace with God,” and Paul is encouraging believers to both realize this privilege and enjoy it.

This peace is first a change in God’s relationship to us. Then, as the natural consequence of His changed relationship to us, we change in our relationship toward Him. Because of our fallen nature, humanity is in a state of hostility with God as His enemies (v. 10). When we are justified, that hostility is removed and we have peace with Him. Awareness of our peace with God brings a sense of peace to our souls.

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And

patience, experience; and experience, hope.

Not only does Christ remove the hostility that existed between God and sinners, He also gives us “access” (Gk. *prosagoge*, **pro-sah-go-GAY**, a bringing to) into His very presence. In the Hebrew temple, the presence of God was in a room called the Holy of Holies. A thick veil separated this room from the rest of the temple, and only the high priest was allowed past the veil once a year to purify the altar which has been made unclean by the sins of the people ([Leviticus 16:16](#)). This curtain represented the separation of sinful humanity from God. When Christ died on the Cross, the veil that led to the Holy of Holies ripped down the middle ([Matthew 27:51](#)). Ripping the veil represented the elimination of the separation so that all believers now have access to God. Christ’s eternal sacrifice in our behalf brings us into the presence of God and allows us to have continuous access to Him.

Being justified by faith also brings us into a new permanent standing with God where we enjoy His divine favor. The basis of our new standing is obtained by grace. We can’t stand before God by our own deeds, character, or righteousness. Our new standing is totally the result of God’s undeserved favor.

Therefore, we rejoice “in hope of the glory of God.” The glory spoken of here is twofold. First, we hope to experience the Divine Presence in heaven. Second and more immediate, we hope to bring glory to God through and in our tribulations. Paul says we glory, or rejoice, in tribulation because we realize it is heaven’s way of teaching us patience or longsuffering. Patience is the confident endurance of things hoped for or difficulties we wish removed. The spiritual fruit of patience (cf. [Galatians 5:22](#)) is seen in the humble endurance of ill because of the realization that nothing comes against us that has not been allowed by God.

This patience then brings about “experience” (Gk. *dokime*, **doe-kee-MAY**), a word also translated as “proof” ([2 Corinthians 2:9](#), [13:3](#); [Philippians 2:22](#)). Proof is the experimental evidence that we have believed through grace. Believers enter periods of tribulation and patiently endure. Our patient endurance is rewarded with eventual victory over our circumstance, and our victorious experience proves the faithfulness to God to deliver us from future trials. Another meaning for *dokime* is “character.” Testings prove or establish our character because it is made evident through patient endurance. Then, experience brings us back to “hope.”

We have hope in two distinct ways and at two successive stages of the Christian life. First, immediately upon believing, along with the sense of peace and abiding access to God, we have hope in our new relationship. Next, hope grows after the reality of our faith has been proven by the patient endurance of trials sent to test it. Our hope comes from looking away from ourselves to the Cross of Christ, then looking into ourselves as being transformed into the image of Christ. In the first case, our hope is based on faith and in the second by experience.

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Our hope of heaven, which presupposes faith, is the confident expectation of future good. Our faith assures us that heaven will be ours, and our hope expectantly anticipates it. This hope in the glory of God will never make us ashamed (like empty hopes do) because it is based on “the love of God”—not our love of God, but His love of us which is “shed abroad” (Gk. *ekkheo*, ek-**KHE**-oh, “poured forth,” used literally of blood or wine, and figuratively of love or the Holy Spirit itself). God’s love for us is seen in the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

At the appointed time, Christ offered Himself as our eternal sacrifice “when we were yet without strength”—that is, when we were powerless to deliver ourselves and therefore ready to perish. Christ’s death reveals three properties of God’s love. First, “the ungodly” are those whose character and sinful nature are repulsive in God’s eyes. Second, He did this when they were “without strength”—nothing stood between humanity and damnation but divine compassion. Third, He did this “in due time” when it was most appropriate that it should take place.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to

die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The apostle now proceeded to illustrate God's compassion. Few, if any people, would be willing to sacrifice their lives for a "righteous man" of exceptional character. A few more might be willing to die for a man who, besides being exceptional, is also distinguished for goodness or a benefactor to society. But God, in glorious contrast to what men might do for each other, displayed His love, "while we were yet sinners"—that is, in a state in of absolute rebellion—"Christ died for us."

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Having been "justified by his blood," we shall be saved from wrath through the sacrifice of Christ. Christ's death restored our relationship with God while we were in open rebellion against Him. Since we are now reconciled, "we shall be saved by His life." If Christ's sacrifice was offered for people incapable of the least appreciation for God's love or Christ's labors on their behalf, how much more will He do all that remains to be done? "For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son." (v. 10, NLT). To be "saved from wrath through him," refers to the entire work of salvation—from the moment of justification to the great white throne judgment ([Revelation 20:11–15](#)), when the wrath of God shall be revealed to all who ignore the Gospel of Jesus. The Apostle Jude best described Christ's continuing work of salvation when he said that He "is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" ([Jude 24](#)).

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

"And not only so" refers back to the blessing Paul mentioned previously. We not only find joy in our newfound peace, access, standing, hope, love, indwelling, and salvation, but we rejoice in God Himself. We find joy in our God for what He has done and for who He is. Our joy proceeds from our union with Christ who brought about our atonement.

"Atonement" (Gk. *katallage*, **kah-tah-lah-GAY**) is the noun form of the verb for reconciling in v. 10. It indicates a shift from a negative relationship to a positive one, or from a broken relationship to a healthy one. Paul moves beyond the sacrificial language here to focus on the restored relationship that Christ's atoning death provides. This restored relationship with God brings about joy, or more literally boasting (see v. 2).

Atonement is the gracious act by which God restores a relationship of harmony and unity between Himself and believers. The word contains parts that express this great truth in simple but profound terms: "at-one." Through God's atoning grace and forgiveness, we are reinstated to a relationship of being "at one" with God.

Say It Correctly

Commendeth. kuh-**MEN**-dith.

Peradventure. pur-ad-**VIN**-ture.

Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY

Hope in God
([Isaiah 40:27–31](#))

TUESDAY

Redeemed in God
([Isaiah 52:7–12](#))



WEDNESDAY

Safe in God
([Isaiah 54:9–14](#))



THURSDAY

Restored in God
([Jeremiah 29:10–14](#))



FRIDAY

Help in God
([Psalm 42](#))



SATURDAY

Fulfilled in God
([Matthew 12:15–21](#))



SUNDAY

Not Without Hope
([Romans 5:1–11](#))

