

HOPE

Sunday Morning 9:15 class

Romans 15:13 - 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.

Background for this verse (NIV Study Bible):

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome (Romans 1:7). They were a predominantly a Gentile church but from reading Romans and the scriptural references, there must have been a large contingent of Jews in the congregation.

Paul wrote this letter with the Primary purpose of presenting the basic system of Salvation to a church that had not received the teaching of an apostle before.

Outline of Romans:

1. Introduction: Author: Paul to the Roman Church
2. The Universal Need for Righteousness (Romans 1:16 - 3:20)
3. Justification Imputation of Righteousness (Romans 3:21 - chapter 5)
4. The New Life in Christ (Romans chapters 6-8)
5. The Mystery of Israel (Romans chapters 9-11)
6. The Christian Life (Romans chapters 12 - 15:13)

I know we have spent some time with Herman in the book of Romans (up to Chapter 6 or so) but before i jump into a verse in the middle of a book full of theology, I thought it might be a good idea to give some context to the verse. If we spend a couple of minutes looking at the outline of the book, the flow leads us straight to it.

Romans 15:13 - 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.

Starting in Romans 1:16, Paul clearly provides up-front the complete source of our hope and then proceeds for the rest of Romans to explain the problem and God's plan that ultimately results in our HOPE.

Romans 1:16-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

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| 1. The Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation. | ANSWER |
| 2. The gospel, reveals the perfect righteousness of God. God cannot accept sin and has clearly laid out the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23). | INTRO to the PROBLEM |
| 3. This verse implies the problem statement: We are unrighteous men; how do we meet the bar of perfect righteousness? | This the same question that Satan puts before God in the book of Job. |
| 4. Being perfect Righteousness and perfect love, God provides the solution. | As we have studied before in Job, God removes the spiritual death through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. |
| 5. All we have to do is believe. | "The righteous will live by faith." |

THE GOSPEL: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

So, there you have it, the gospel.

We all know it.

We all understand it. ROMANS in 2 verses!

So, WHY THE HECK DOES PAUL PROCEED TO WRITE 15 MORE CHAPTERS ABOUT THE SAME STUFF.

I want to use an analogy here.

I help coach Nick's baseball team. He plays on a good team and they have a bunch of success, but even though they have been playing together for a number of years now, there are still days that they make errors or strike out. They are not perfect and even if someday they make the majors, they will still not be perfect.

- **But there are days when these boys** (12-year-old boys) **look at me when I give them some instructions and they say "I know"**. What they are really saying is "I already know this Coach". This is one of the most dangerous phrases in the English language.

I know Herman's most dangerous phrase in the Bible is "**but they did not hear**".

These phrases are directly related. What happens when we say "I know"? We immediately become self-focused and completely shut down our ability to learn. **We do not hear.**

- Do you ever get in that funk of I have to go to church instead of I get to go to church. I have to read my Bible instead of I get to read it?

Ever feel like Herman seems to say the same stuff over and over. God, "I already know this stuff". Why do I need to go to church? I already know it's Faith. Faith in Christ. Faith in the Holy Spirit? I know this stuff.

- This may seem like a worldly analogy but the boys who already know how to hit the ball well but keep learning, keep working on their swing, or their fielding and learn the next level of detail/skill; keep tweaking the small things even when they do them well. These are the boys who continue to get better and better, **which leads to more confidence, which leads to better play**. When they walk to the plate, they are no longer wishing they will get a hit. They have confident assurance that they will get a hit.

I believe this is the reason that God had Paul write the next 15 chapters. So that we can have more and more detail and keep tweaking our skills (Faith). This results in Confident Assurance. (HOPE)

Romans 5:1-5

- ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**
- ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.**
- ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;**
- ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.**
- ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.**

So, I want to go back to Romans outline for a moment:

Outline of Romans:

1. Introduction: Author: Paul to the Roman Church
2. The Universal Need for Righteousness (Romans 1:16 - 3:20)
 - i. **Romans 3:9-12**

- ⁹ For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.**
- ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;**
- ¹¹ there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.**
- ¹² All have turned away,
they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even one."**

- ii. God clearly calls out our total depravity. We stand condemned, accountable before God. We need his grace because we are helpless and hopeless apart from it. **We all fall short of the glory of God!**

3. Justification Imputation of Righteousness (Romans 3:21 - chapter 5)

i. Romans 3:28-31

²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.
²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,
³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.
³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

- ii. No one will ever be able to meet the standard of perfect Righteousness set by God through our own merits, but God provided His Righteousness for the human race through Jesus. We are justified before God because when we believe in Christ as our Savior, we are imputed with the Righteousness of Christ. We are, therefore, Righteous before God due to our position of being in Christ.

4. The New Life in Christ (Romans chapters 6-8)

i. Romans 8:

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you [a] free from the law of sin and death.
³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, [b] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. [c] And so he condemned sin in the flesh,
⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- 5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.**
- 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.**
- 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.**
- 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.**
- 9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.**
- 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life [d] because of righteousness.**
- 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of [e] his Spirit who lives in you.**

- ii. From Bible Knowledge Commentary: God's Provided Righteousness involves more than declaring believers righteous on the basis of Faith. In Romans, the first clue to this fact is in 5:5 **"God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."** The presence of the Holy Spirit within believers and God's reproduction of an attribute of his (**His Love [and the Fruit of the Spirit]**) in believers speak of our new natures and new lives. This kind of life is a result of the sanctifying ministry of the Holy Spirit. We are set apart with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **When we are walking in the power of the Holy Spirit (through Faith) we are projecting the image of Christ.**

5. The Mystery of Israel (chaps 9-11) - God's Sovereignty Revealed.

i. **Romans 11:11-12**

¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

ii. God had a sovereign choice: The Jews gloried in the fact that they were God's chosen people. But now in the church age, Jewish believers involved in the church were decreasing while Gentile participation was increasing. The mystery was being revealed. This makes us stop and think, had God abandoned the Jewish people? God is sovereign and is also faithful.

6. The Christian Life (Romans 12 - 15:13)

i. **Romans 12:1-2**

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ii. How do we transform our mind, through the study of the Scriptures in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:4

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:13 -

¹³ 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.

Pray, spend time in the word, trust in the Spirit,
Share this hope with the world.