

Romans 15:8-13
Undivided Hope

Hope defined ...

I. The Substance of Your Hope

- A. Christ's Service
- B. To Jews, Gentiles
- C. And You

II. The Certainty of Your Hope

- A. Promises
- B. Proven

III. The Immediacy of your Hope

- A. Your Best Hope Now
- B. Your Full Hope to Come

IV. The Abundance of Your Hope

- A. Bestowed by God
- B. Overflowing

... by the God of hope.

Children, Listen ...

1. When we think about the hope God gives, should we think about something that we *wish for* or something that *will be* because He promised it?
2. God promised His Old Testament people, the Jews, a Savior. Did God keep His promise? How?
3. Gentiles (everyone who was not a Jew) were once without God and without hope. Did that change for those who came to know Jesus?
4. Can all Christians trust in God even if things get very difficult in life? Why?
5. What can you do to remind yourself of the great hope God provides His people?

Just Hopeful or Filled with Hope?

We may be hopeful about a lot of stuff. We make plans and hope they will turn out, we hope for this, we hope for that. The concept of being "hopeful" allows for a measure of doubt – what we would really like to happen may or may not happen after all. This is quite different from what the "God of hope" provides for His people. The content of His hope is fact because He is true and what he promises always comes to pass. The list of component parts of full Christian hope is too extensive to list here, but if we simply consider the hope of salvation we have in Christ and the hope of eternity secured for us by His work we realize even those two things provide a wealth of assurance. In Christ we don't just slog along in doubtful hopefulness but we press on with assured confidence that what our God has promised us is true and will always come to pass. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* Romans 14:13