

There's Hope for You!

A study about HOPE as found in the New Testament

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These study guides have been designed to assist you in the "Three R's of your own Bible study – reading, receiving, and responding. You are welcome to print out the whole series. If you wish to print out only one lesson at a time, choose that option from your printer.

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Lesson One

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**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.**

Romans 15:13

It is no surprise that the subject of "hope" is presented by Paul in the book of Romans in five different chapters. This letter written to the church in Rome in about A.D. 57 is the most systematic presentation of God's plan of salvation that we have in Scripture. The Israelites waited with anticipation for the coming of the Messiah and when He did come as the baby rather than the King, many of them did not recognize Him. But when He came in obedience to God the Father, He became The Savior, the One who gives hope because of the possibility of forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. It is only because of His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead that you and I can have deep and lasting hope for today and for all our tomorrows. He is waiting for us to understand more fully the hope that He offers to us as His children through the Holy Spirit.

READ - Read as much of the **Book of Romans** as you can and take note of the topic of HOPE.
As you read, remember this is a letter written to real people - probably Jews & Gentiles.

REFLECT -

1. Romans 4: 18 - 25 - A Model of Hope
What is the difference between faith and hope? How do they complement each other?
2. Romans 5: 1 - 11 - Hope does not disappoint us
What do you think "rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God" means? (vs. 2)
How does hope become a product of suffering? Can you illustrate? (vs. 4 - 5)
3. Romans 8: 18 - 27 - More than believers have hope
In what way does the creation experience hope also?
How is the relationship of hope, weakness & prayer developed in this passage?
4. Romans 12: 9 - 21
There are some interesting instructions in this little passage. Why would "joyful in hope" be a part of this list?
How do you relate these ideas to Romans 12: 1 - 2?
5. Romans 15: 5 and 13
Just before Paul completes this letter in a more personal way, he writes 2 short prayers in this chapter. What are the qualities of life that he is asking God to give them? What do you notice about these 2 prayers?

REVIEW - On a blank piece of paper begin a list of the things you have learned about HOPE from these 5 chapters in Romans. (This will be a continuing list as you study this word.)

RESPOND -

- With thanksgiving - As you listened to God's Word, what is your response of praise?
With requests - As you listen to God speak, what are the desires of your heart?

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Lesson 2

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**May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father,
who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope
encourage our hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.**

II Thessalonians 2:16 - 17

The believers in Thessalonica were a great encouragement to Paul. In fact, he told them that they were a part of his hope and joy! He wrote to this church because he loved them, but he was also concerned that they were clear about the Gospel message, about Christ's return, and what all of this should mean in their daily lives. In his second letter, he wanted to clear up some misunderstandings about the second coming of Christ and its implications. It makes me wonder what Paul would write to us if he had the opportunity. What do we need to know about these very same topics and about hope?

READ - I and II Thessalonians - These are short letters, easily read in a brief time.

REFLECT -

1. I Thess. 1: 2 -3 - Endurance inspired by hope
What defined or characterized the church in Thessalonica?
How is work, labor, and endurance affected by faith, love & hope in the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. I Thess. 1: 17 - 2: 5
Paul expresses to the people why they are such a joy to him. What do you think he is saying?
3. I Thess. 4: 13 - 18 - About those who have no hope -
What is the BIG difference between those who believe that Jesus died and rose again and those who do not? How do these words encourage you?
4. I Thess. 5: 1 - 11 - The hope of salvation
Faith, hope & love were grouped together in Chapter 1 and now Paul emphasizes them again. What is his concern in this part of his letter?
5. II Thess. 2: 13 - 16 - The gift of good hope
Now a prayer for the believers in Thessalonica.
Where does encouragement and good hope really come from?

REVIEW - Continue your list of the things you are learning about HOPE.
What it means, where it comes from, how it affects us and others, etc.

RESPOND -

- With thanksgiving - As you listened to God's Word, what is your response of praise?
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Lesson 3

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**I pray also that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened
in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you . . .**

Ephesians 1: 18

The church in Ephesus was a center for the spread of the Gospel in that first century and headquarters for Paul. But now (A.D. 60) he was in prison in Rome and he is writing to them to encourage them. One of the important themes in this letter is that salvation is by faith alone. He is also anxious to remind them of the ways in which the things that they believe should determine their behavior and choices. And once again he includes the theme of HOPE as a part of our experience in Christ. There are many facets to this word and you will discover some of them in this letter.

READ - EPHESIANS - It is very important to read the whole letter.

As you read, watch for the word and concept of HOPE and the emphasis on "in Christ".

REFLECT -

1. Ephesians 1: 3 - 14 - The first to hope in Christ -
Paul is enthusiastically writing about the joy of being "in Christ".
What facet of the word "hope" do you find here?

2. Ephesians 1: 15 -23 I pray also . . .
Paul prays for these believers and wants them to "know" several things.
What are these things and how important is the phrase that includes *hope*?

3. Ephesians 2: 11 - 18 - Without hope
In what ways do you identify with this part of the letter?

4. Ephesians 4: 1 - 6 - Called to one hope -
In the context of the early church - Jews and Gentiles - coming together for the first time as believers in Christ, this must have been a very important goal and concept to grasp.
What implications do you see in it for yourself at this point in history?

Bonus Question - Colossians 1 -

Verse 5 - Hope that springs from faith and love - think about it - say it another way.

Verse 23 - The hope held out in the Gospel - Don't move from it! How could this happen?

Verse 27 - Christ in you, the hope of glory - What do you think this means?

REVIEW - Continue your list of the things you are learning about HOPE.

What are its synonyms, antonyms and shades of meaning?

RESPOND -

With thanksgiving - As you listened to God's Word, what is your response of praise?

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Lesson 4

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. . .while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Titus 2: 13

Both Timothy and Titus had traveled with Paul on some of his missionary journeys. But the time came when each of them needed to go out on their own and work in various churches. Paul knew that they, and we, would need guidelines and instructions on how to lead the church, how to work with people and to live lives which would honor our Savior, Jesus Christ. The hope which we have in the living God and His Son, Jesus, is repeated in I Timothy and the hope of eternal life is emphasized in Titus. How important are these 2 doctrines to you ?

READ - I Timothy and Titus -

Try to identify with these 2 young leaders as they take on new responsibilities in the church.

REFLECT -

1. I Timothy 1:1 and 4: 9 - 10 - Our hope
Of all the descriptive words that Paul could have used about Jesus, he used *hope*. Why?
2. I Timothy 5: 3 - 6 - Hope in God
An interesting contrast - a widow who hopes in God and one who lives for pleasure. Any thoughts?
3. I Timothy 6: 17 - 19 - Another contrast - hope in wealth or hope in God. Any thoughts?
4. In each of the 3 chapters in the letter to Titus, Paul mentions how the "hope of eternal life" and the "hope of Jesus coming again" leads to godliness. Perhaps we, too, should spend some time letting the reality of eternity with Jesus soak into our minds and hearts and souls.
John 3: 16, 36
John 14: 1 - 4
I John 3: 1 - 3
Revelation 21: 1 - 4

REVIEW - Continue your list of the things you are learning about HOPE.
What was important in these 2 letters?

RESPOND -

With thanksgiving - As you listened to God's Word, what is your response of praise?

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Lesson 5

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**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is faithful.**

Hebrews 10:23

There are many things we do not know for sure about the Book of Hebrews. Was it a letter or a sermon? Written by Paul or someone else? To Gentiles or Jewish believers or both at Rome? We do know, however, that this book clearly explains the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ and it clearly explains how Christianity is the true successor to Judaism. And we also can easily identify that the author knew about the hope which we have because of our salvation in Christ. This hope is described in a variety of ways in Hebrews.

READ - As much of the book of **HEBREWS** as you can. Try one of the newer translations.

REFLECT -

1. Hebrews 3: 1 - 13 - Holding on to our hope -
There is a word picture here, contrasting Moses' relationship and Jesus' relationship to God. And then the very interesting statement about us in the last part of verse 6. What do you think this might be saying?
2. Hebrews 6: 9 - 12 - Make your hope sure -
This is a very difficult passage of Scripture, but you might want to give it some thought and relate other Scriptures which you may know to what is being said here.
3. Hebrews 6: 13 - 20 - We have this hope as an anchor -
God's oath and God's Word are 2 unchangeable things - how does this effect our hope?
4. Hebrews 10: 19 - 25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope -
Five times in this small section, the writer says, "let us . . ."
Take some time to think about these ideas and to put them in your own words, especially the one about hope.
5. Hebrews 11: 1 - . . .What we hope for -
This is really a definition of faith, but it links it with hope. What is the connection?
Can you say the same thing in some other ways?

REVIEW - Continue your list of the things you are learning about HOPE.
What influence is this information having on you?

RESPOND -

- With thanksgiving - As you listened to God's Word, what is your response of praise?
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Lesson 6

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Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. I Peter 1: 13

The subject of hope is easily found in the first letter that Peter wrote to the churches that were scattered around Asia Minor (Turkey). They were suffering persecution and needed some answers and encouragement. Peter wanted to challenge them, as well as to explain something about suffering and trials. When life is really hard and you are suffering for reasons that you either do not deserve or did not expect, what are the ways that "hope" comes to you? When it is your dear friend that is going through severe testing and trials, how can you bring "hope" to them?

READ - I Peter - Yes, the whole letter!

What was life like for these believers to whom Peter was writing?

REFLECT -

1. I Peter 1:3 - 7 - A living hope
Our new birth is into a "living hope" and "an inheritance". What are those 2 things?
2. I Peter 1: 13 - 16 Set your hope...
In practical ways, how do you follow the guidelines of verse 13? Where does the motivation for obedience and holiness come from?
3. I Peter 1: 17 - 25 Your faith and hope are in God
We are all tempted to put our "faith and hope" in many temporal things. What would some of them be? How is this old way of life described in this passage?
Think about where you have chosen to put your "faith and hope".
4. I Peter 3: 1 - 6 - This is the way ...
Do you think this description for a holy women who puts her hope in God is still accurate? Why or why not?
5. I Peter 3: 13 - 17 - Defending the hope you have
It is so easy to become defensive rather than offensive when we are questioned about our hope in Christ. How do you prepare daily to "give an answer"? Or do you?

Bonus Question - Read I John 3: 1 - 3 We shall be like Him

The GREAT FAMILY REUNION - Going home to be with the Father - Eternal life with Jesus
What effect does "this hope" have on you?

REVIEW - Complete your list of the things you are learning about HOPE.

Does the information in I Peter help you to understand suffering and give you hope?

RESPOND -

With thanksgiving - As you listened to God's Word, what is your response of praise?

With requests - As you listen to God speak, what are the desires of your heart?