

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans Overview:

- I. Letter Introduction (1:1-17)
- II. Letter Body: Exposition of the Gospel and its Implications (1:18-15:13)
- III. Letter Closing (15:14-16:27)

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:13)

Abounding in Hope

1. Why does he emphasize hope?

- hope is the chief implication of our justification by faith in Christ
 - “to be justified by faith is to live in hope” – M. Seifrid
- hope is the essential characteristic of a Christian

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

(Romans 5:1-5)

²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

(Romans 8:24-25)

Abounding in Hope

2. What is the content of this hope?

- our future conformity to the image of the resurrected Son in the new creation ("glorification") (cf. 8:29)
- this hope is manifested now and made certain by the resurrection of Christ ("firstborn")

Abounding in Hope

3. How do we experience this hope?

- by God filling us with all *joy* and *peace* that results from *faith* in Christ
- by the power of the Holy Spirit who indwells us and seals our hope (cf. Eph. 1:13-14)