

Sermon Series: Book of Romans  
Sermon title: "Hope"  
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
December 18, 2022  
S.C. Brown, Pastor

### **Opening Illustration**

Well, most people in Hong Kong have been hoping for almost 3 years for the city to return to normal; meaning for Covid restrictions to go away...

no PCR tests, no RATs, No masks, No Leave Home Safe app and Vaccine Pass.

Maybe the one restriction that people have been hoping will be relaxed or removed the most has been the opening of the border with Shenzhen.

Businesses have been needing the income. Tourism sector needs the Mainland tourists. Hong Kong people want to go eat food in Shenzhen and get a cheap hair cut.

Hope may turn to sight soon as there have been reports of workers cleaning the Lo Hu MTR station, Customs Employees told to get ready to go back to

work and even the High Speed Train has tickets available for Boxing Day.

I have been hoping for this, not because I will even go to Shenzhen but because it gives new life to the city after 4 years of difficulty.

Hope. What is hope? And what does the Bible mean when it talks about hope?

Better yet, in what should we place our hope in this life?

### **Let's pray.**

We've been looking at **Romans 5** the last few weeks and we've been looking at the benefits of being justified through Christ; being made right with God through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross for us.

We have seen that one benefit is peace with God.

#### **Verse 1**

We are no longer enemies of God or against God but now reconciled to God.

We not only have peace with God forever but we have been given access to God continually because Christ has brought us into the realm of grace. **Verse 2**

We have peace with God, we can stand before him because of grace and we can rejoice in being changed by God in heaven and even in our sufferings in this life.

And we have hope, a hope that will not disappoint us.

### **Romans 5:1-5**

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

**2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### **We need to start with some definitions of HOPE.**

- **Hope** is not "something good that one would like to have happen".
- **Hope** is "something good that one knows is going to happen and so anticipates."

So, hope is not, *"I wish they would open the border"*.  
Hope is, *"I know they WILL open the border and I am waiting for it."*

### **Hope is the expectation of what is sure to come.**

Biblical Hope is trust and confidence in the promises of God; that he will do what he said he would do and actively waiting for the fulfillment of those promises.

*"Hope is the active, faith-filled waiting for God to fulfill what he's promised."*

As we saw last week, Christians hope in what's called our *'glorification'*; that day when we will go to heaven and be done with sin and we will be transformed into a different person.

### **Verse 2: we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

This means restored to the rightful state that God originally intended for humans but we sinned against God.

We hope for that future.

But here in the present, our hope is growing as we go through difficulties in life.

**3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

The hard times that we experience in this life build in us a hunger for a better world- with Christ.

---

Now, we come to the exact text today in **verse 5**, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

What does he mean here by 'hope does not put us to shame'?

It literally means, "to down shame". Καταισκυνει (kataskunie) We don't talk that way.

It means to be humiliated or disgraced or maybe we could even say 'to lose face'.

Pauls says here that (remember the basis is the justification of God through Christ) on that day when we stand before God we will not be humiliated.

We will not stand there that day and say, "Oh no, I was wrong the whole time." "My hope was in Christ and I was an idiot." "I wasted my whole life pursuing Christ." The Bible says "No, that hope will not disappoint you."

We have several texts that tell us that we will not be 'put to shame' or disappointed on that day.

**Romans 9:33**, **Romans 10:11** and **1 Peter 2:6** all tell us that 'whoever believes (in Christ, whoever is justified by Christ-here) will not be put to shame.'

So, we have texts, we have promises that tell us that it'll be worth it to HOPE in Christ.

But we have something else too.

**5** and hope does not put us to shame, **because** God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

We have something besides the Bible.

We have something in our hearts.

What is it?

'God's love'.

What this means is God's love for us.

You know in your heart that your hope is not in vain because God has '*poured out*' his love for you *into* your heart so that you have hope.

This is done when God gives you the Holy Spirit as a gift. When you are born again and receive the Holy Spirit something supernatural happens to you.

You have the Holy Spirit living in you now. The Holy Spirit reveals to you that God loves you. And that is where your hope comes from. It is *experiential* as well as factual truth in Scripture.

### **Romans 8:16**

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Let me summarize this text again by reading J.B. Phillips' excellent translation of **Romans 5:1-5**

Since then it is by faith that we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have confidently entered into this new relationship of grace, and here we take our stand, in happy certainty of the glorious things he has for us in the future. This doesn't mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joys—we can be full

of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.

So, Christian hope is the active faith-filled expectation for God to fulfill for us what he has promised.

Our hope is in Christ. What he has done. What he is doing. What he will do.

Christians, the Bible does give us some exhortation to keep on hoping till the end...to exercise our hope if you will.

**Hebrews 6:11** have the full assurance of hope until the end so that you may not be sluggish but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**Hebrews 6:19** we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner



place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.

Now the Bible gives us a warning to not place our hope in anything else in this world.

The Bible says that without Christ we are without hope.

### **Ephesians 2:12**

We are warned in the Bible to not place our hope in things like:

Military might (**Isaiah 31:1-3**)

One's own wisdom (**Proverbs 26:12**)

Our own righteousness (**Ezekiel 33:13**)

Money (**Proverbs 11:28**)

### **Question:**

Where is your hope?

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God. **Psalms 42**

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will hear you. You will seek me and

find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you declares the LORD.