

GRACE NOTES

Series: Counter Culture

Message: **Living with Hope**

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5

Date: Sunday, December 6, 2015



Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have also obtained access through Him by faith into this grace in which we stand,

and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Biblical hope is confident assurance.

And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.

We put our hope in the God who carries us in our afflictions and one day who will receive us into glory.

This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Our hope is anchored in the promises of God fulfilled by the life and work of His Son Jesus.

“Earth is bearable because there is hope. Hell is unendurable because all hope has fled. Heaven is eternal beatitude because hope is there in radiant fulfillment.” (A.W. Tozer)

STUDY NOTES

What would you say is the difference between wishing and hoping?

How is having hope important for people who are going through pain and/or difficulties?

Thinking back to Sunday's message - What challenged you, encouraged you, or caused you to change the way you think or act?

Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**.

What issue is Paul addressing in these verses?

How are Christians to view death differently than non-Christians?

What reason does Paul give for Christians being able to have hope even at the death of a fellow believer?

Read **Psalms 62:1-8**.

In this Psalm, what are the issues facing David?

What is David's attitude as he endures derision and attack?

Is there anything that we can learn from David's example?

Read **Romans 15:13**.

How does hope bring joy and peace into the lives of believers?

Can you think of an example of what a life of overflowing hope might look like?

It is true that we choose hope over despair, but it is not something we can produce on our own. What power enables us to be hopeful regardless of our circumstances?

Does your life overflow with hope? If not, why not? Talk in your group about how you can choose hope!