



Romans 15:7-13

LIVING IN HOPE

Sometimes people approach me and say, "I really struggle with this aspect of Christian teaching. I like this part of Christian belief, but I don't think I can accept that part." I usually respond: "If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on

which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead." That is how the first hearers felt who heard reports of the resurrection. They knew that if it was true it meant we can't live our lives any way we want. It also meant we don't have to be afraid of anything, not Roman swords, not cancer, nothing. If Jesus rose from the dead, it changes everything.

—Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God*

There are four great truths that we learn in Romans 1-11:

1. All of humanity is condemned by sin (1:18-3:20).
2. We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ (3:21-5:21).
3. We are sanctified by the Holy Spirit (6:1-8:27).
4. We are chosen and loved by God (8:28-11:36).

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ! This is the good news that calls us to surrender our bodies to God, to not be conformed to this world, to use our gifts for His glory, to love and serve others, to bless our enemies, to submit to authority, to clothe ourselves with Christ, to bear with the weaknesses of others, and to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us.

We are part of a bigger story! All history is moving toward a climax when Jesus Christ will reign on this earth and the redeemed from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation will worship Him together. We are to pray for this coming kingdom and live as kingdom citizens in this present world.

Paul ends his great theological treatise with a prayer (15:13).

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.

OUR GREAT LONGING

We are longing for all-encompassing _____.

We are longing for all-encompassing _____.

15:7-13 both functions as the conclusion of 14:1-15:6 and contains a summary of major themes in the letter...and thus it can be identified as the climax of the letter. —Thomas Schreiner

Gentiles. Greek, *ethnos*, "a multitude associated together; a tribe, nation, or people group."

In 15:9-12, Paul quotes four OT passages taken from the Law (Deut. 32:43), the Prophets (Is. 11:1,10), and the Writings (Ps. 18:49; 117:1) and spoken by Moses (prophet), David (king), and Isaiah (priest). There is a progression in the four quotes as the nations hear the praise of God, are encouraged to rejoice with His people, are exhorted to praise God on their own, and are predicted to put their hope in the Messiah, the root of Jesse.

Worship is the goal and fuel of missions: Missions exists because worship doesn't. —John Piper

All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they use, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both—to be happy.

—Blaise Pascal (1623-62)

OUR GREAT PROBLEM

Something is wrong with our hearts.

Something is wrong with our relationships.

Something is wrong with our world.

No one or nothing in our world has power over death.

OUR GREAT GOD

Our God is the only source and means of true _____.

He is the God of patience and comfort (15:5).

He is the God of truth, giving us His great promises (15:8).

He is the God of mercy, giving us His Son (15:9-12).

Genesis 3:15; 22:16-18; Deut. 18:18; 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Psalm 2:1-12; 89:34-37; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Daniel 7:13-14.

OUR GREAT NEED

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:9-13).

OUR GREAT HOPE

Despite the difficulties, heartaches, tragedies, and sorrows of this world, we can _____ in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Christ has conquered sin!

Christ has conquered death!

Christ is coming again!

Praise the Lord, all you nations!

And let all the peoples praise Him! (Psalm 117:1)

Paul's aim is to show that the whole of humanity is morally bankrupt, unable to claim a favorable verdict at the judgment bar of God, desperately in need of His mercy and pardon.

—F.F. Bruce

Every time I see a coffin, it preaches to me that the world is broken and fallen and under the curse of death—and I am a part of it. ...From the day I was born I lived under the sentence of death.

—David Gibson

He who shall rise (15:12). Greek, *anistemi*, "to rise, to stand up, to raise up from the dead." Used of the resurrection in Matt. 17:9; 20:19; Mk. 8:31; 9:9, 31; 10:34; Luke 18:33; 24:7, 46; John 20:9; Acts 2:24, 32; 10:41; 13:34; 17:3.

The only king in the OT who was called the son of Jesse was David. All of the rest of the kings were called sons "of David." In applying the parentage of Jesse specifically to the coming Messiah, Isaiah is doing more than revealing the family from whom the Messiah will come. He is revealing that the Messiah...is even greater than David, being David's Lord as well as David's son (Ps. 110:1; Mark 12:35–37).

—R.C. Sproul

It is one thing to say, "Christ is a Savior"; it is quite another to say, "He is my Savior and my Lord." The devil can say the first; the true Christian alone can say the second.

—Martin Luther

Human beings place their hope in what will bring them the greatest happiness in the future. The supreme object of our hope is also the object of our praise and worship.

—Thomas Schreiner