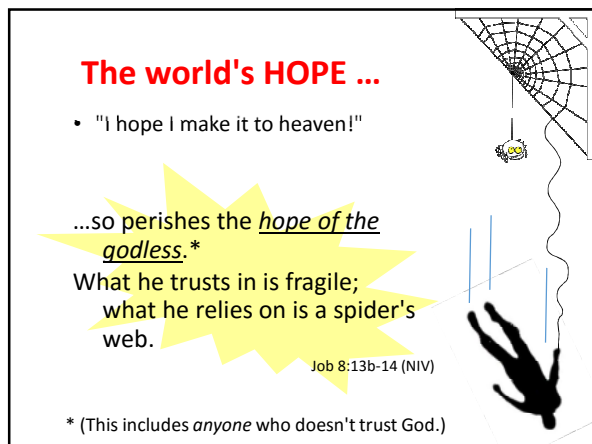
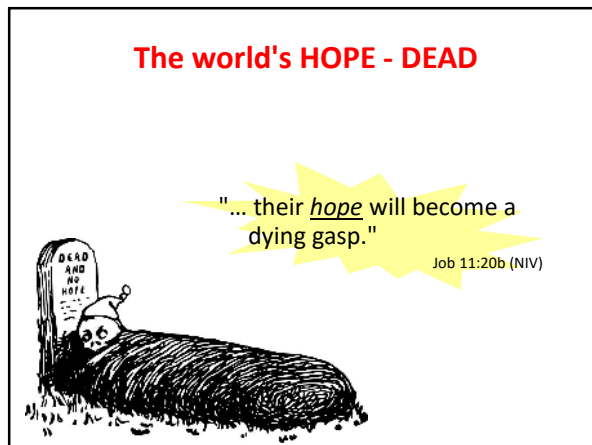


LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

13 – Rejoicing in Hope (2)



The HOPE that GOD offers us:

THERE IT IS, WAITING FOR ME!

"LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE."

- **LOOKING FORWARD:** to something that is good and beneficial.
- **CONFIDENCE:** based on God's promises.




We can look forward to it, because:

OUR HOPE IS IN GOD, AND GOD KEEPS OUR HOPE PROTECTED!

... our **hope** is *in the living God,* ...
1 Tim. 4:10b (NLT)

... the **hope** that is *stored up for you in heaven* and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ...
Col. 1:5b (LEB)



We can look forward to it, because:

GOD HAS ALREADY STARTED THE CHANGES IN US...



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.

Romans 5:5 (HCSB)



... AND HAVING BEGUN, HE WILL FINISH THE JOB!


... God, who *began* this good work in you, will *carry it through to completion* on the day of Christ Jesus.
Philip. 1:6 (GW)

This HOPE is not a *feeling*.

IT'S A FACT THAT WE CAN (AND SHOULD) EXPLAIN TO OTHERS.


And if you are asked about your Christian **hope**, always be ready to explain it.
1 Peter 3:15b (NLT)



Since it is a FACT:


WE CAN DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC THINGS WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO!

What are some of these things?




#1
God will fulfil his promises to Israel!
 [Note: (1) Israel will *first* repent;
 (2) These promises will benefit *all* who are saved.]

... for I [Paul] am bound with this chain because of the **hope** of Israel.
Acts 28:20b (NET)

 [Paul is referring to all that *Jesus* will accomplish when he returns and fulfils Old Testament prophecy. Many of these things are listed below.]



#2
People will be raised from the dead!
 (*All* people will rise; but it will be a horrifying event for the unsaved.)

[Paul] shouted, "... I am on trial because my **hope** is in the resurrection of the dead!"
 "I have **hope** in God, just as these men* do, that he will raise both the righteous and the ungodly."
Acts 23:6b; 24:15 (NLT)

 * (These were Jews who opposed Paul.)

#3
We, God's people, will be given eternal life! *

... the **hope** of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ...
 ... heirs having the **hope** of eternal life.
Titus 1:2; 3:7 (NIV)

 * The others will remain in death. As we saw last week, death means separation. They will remain conscious in their horrible "separated" condition.

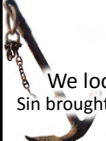
#4
Our redemption and adoption will be complete!
 (Right now, we only see part of their effects.)

... we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
 For in this **hope** we were saved. ... we wait for it with patience.
Romans 8:23b, 24a, 25b (ESV)



#5
All creation will be set free from the curse of sin!
 (At the time that we are set free.)

... in **hope** that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of decay into the glorious freedom of God's children.
Romans 8:20b-21 (NET)

 We look forward to a complete ecological restoration! Sin brought the curse of judgment; the removal of sin will take it away.

#6
AND BEST OF ALL ...
We will share in God's glory!

And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2b (NIV)

... Christ in you, the **hope** of glory.
Colossian 1:27b (NET)



#7

THIS GLORY INCLUDES ...


We will see Jesus and be like him!

(This fact affects us even *now!*)

We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is.

And everyone who has this **hope** in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

1 John 3:2b-3 (HCSB)



Someday we will no longer have to HOPE.

WE WON'T LOOK FORWARD TO GOD'S PROMISES, BECAUSE THEY WILL HAVE ARRIVED!

I WON'T NEED BINOCULARS!

If we **hope** for something we already see, it's not really **hope**. Who **hopes** for what can be seen?

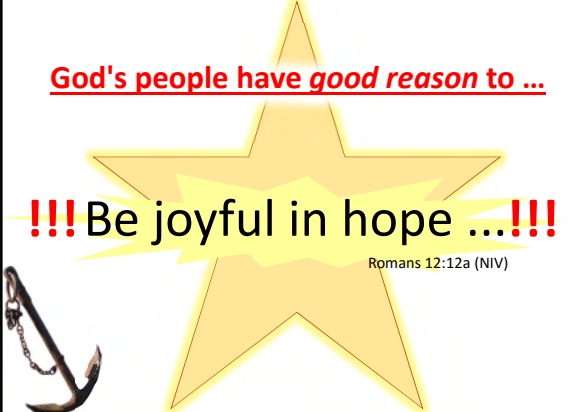
Romans 8:24b (GW)



God's people have good reason to ...

!!! Be joyful in hope ...!!!

Romans 12:12a (NIV)



Your Mission...

(Same as last week.)

★ **Pursue this hope!** ★

Take hold of the salvation that comes with following and obeying Jesus.

★ **And rejoice in this hope!** ★

Because he made it possible!

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

"Be joyful in hope ..."

Romans 12:12a

We have *many* reasons to rejoice
in our hope! (Here are more examples.)

Those who belong to God have a hope that the world cannot comprehend. Even death itself cannot overpower it.

OUR HOPE IS FROM GOD.

God is the source of our hope.

- Our hope is in God (not in our own efforts) - 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 Peter 1:21.
- Our hope comes from the "God of hope," by the Spirit's power - Romans 15:13; and by his grace - 2 Thessalonians 2:16.
- Our hope is centered in Jesus Christ - 1 Timothy 1:1; and it is because of his resurrection from the dead - 1 Peter 1:3.

God builds up our hope.

- He builds it up by means of his Word - Romans 15:4.
- He uses the trials of life to grow our hope - Romans 5:3-4.
- The presence of God's love within us gives certainty to our hope - Romans 5:5.

MORE ABOUT THIS HOPE:

It effects how we live.

- We can have endurance - 1 Thessalonians 1:3.
- We can be bold in telling others about Jesus - 2 Corinthians 3:12.
- It's part of the "spiritual armor" we can use to fight the devil - 1 Thessalonians 5:8.
- When saved people die, we do not have to grieve in the hopeless way that the unsaved do - 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

Genuine hope is linked to genuine faith (trust).

- Our faith (trust) in God's promises is the basis for having certainty about the things we hope for (i.e., the things we look forward to) - Hebrews 11:1.

There are also *many* other things
we can rejoice in! (Some examples.)

Though this week's focus is on rejoicing in our *hope*, it doesn't hurt to remember that God gives us *many* reasons to rejoice!

- **The good news about salvation:** Rejoicing when it is preached - Philippians 1:18; see also Acts 13:48 (response to hearing it).
- **The spiritual growth of others:** When they are walking in the truth - 3 John 1:3-4; obedient to God - Romans 16:19; when they are strong (even if we feel weak) - 2 Corinthians 13:9.
- **Joy during trials and persecution:** Because it associates us with Jesus - Acts 5:41; 1 Peter 4:13; since God will reward us - Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23; when it is for the good of others - Colossians 1:24.