

Christ Is Our Hope Romans 5:1-5

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

When you belong to Christ, you have the _____ hope in the world. With Christ in your life, no one can _____ your hope. Through His Word, the Father in heaven opens our eyes to the _____. The Scriptures provide us a perspective to see _____ than the struggles and troubles in life. They give us hope and promise of God's _____. They teach us God's love and His desire to _____ us. They give us hope in _____ aspect of life.

Several years ago, I took my first commercial airplane flight. I boarded an old plane of a small company on a snowy, cloudy day. They had to de-ice the plane twice before we took off. I was cold; I was alone, and more than a little nervous. I listened closely to the safety speech about seat belts. I admit it was tense! The plane slowly got off the ground. Up we climbed into the clouds. I was not prepared for what happened next. I should have realized the obvious. We passed above the clouds into the brightness of the day. The sun still shines above the clouds.

Clouds move in and out with their rain and shadows. They can temporarily _____ the sun, but they cannot _____ it from shining. So it is with the Lord! When you're tempted to think all is lost, it's helpful to remember: the Father is still on the _____. Remember the blood of Jesus still cleanses from _____. The Bible stands as Jesus said, "It is written." The Lord Jesus is still _____ again for His people. The gospel still has _____ to save, and prayer still reaches the _____ of the Heavenly Father.

Our reading today is from Romans 5:1-5.

I love Edward Mote's hymn, because I know it's true. He wrote, "My hope is _____ on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not _____ the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock I _____, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand." Someone has said, "Hope is as necessary to the _____ as oxygen is to the body." As Christians, we have hope even in the _____ times. Hope in Jesus Christ is our confident expectation that God will meet all our _____ in this life and bless us with life in heaven. In Christ, we have a wonderful _____ hope!

The inspired apostle Paul promised the church in Philippi, "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). When we become Christians through our faith, repentance, and baptism, all out of love, we can _____ on our Father in heaven washing away our sins with the _____ of Christ. By His grace we can count on being added to His _____, His family, becoming His children, and enjoying His favor. Christ is our hope and our _____. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). The whole world may change

under our noses, but nothing changes the _____ that Jesus is Lord and the way to heaven.

The early church went through some _____ times at the hands of the Roman Emperors. Early Christians _____ gladiators, wild beasts, prison, and crucifixion from the hands of people who did not understand them, but all their troubles did not _____ the love of God. **Read what the Bible says in Romans 8:31-39.**

The Holy Spirit wrote, “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our _____, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). The Scriptures do indeed give us hope; they help us see the problems of life are not _____. Others have suffered through the same _____ that you and I face and have succeeded with God’s _____. If God could help them, He can help us. If God could forgive them, He can forgive us. If God has kept His promises to them, we _____ He will keep His promises to us.

The Scriptures teach us of God’s mighty _____ bringing Israel out of Egypt, of the crossing of the Red Sea; it teaches us of the _____ in the wilderness, and of the falling of the _____ of Jericho. In his last days, Joshua could proclaim to all Israel, “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one _____ has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; and not one of them has _____” (Joshua 23:14). The Scriptures teach us how God liberated Israel through the judges, and how David won over Goliath through the _____ of God. When the people _____ God, God was with them and blessed them. Hope is our confident expectation, an expectation that God will provide what He _____.

Because God has all power, because God loves us with a great love, and because God keeps His promises, we can have _____ hope. Jesus is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1)! He is our _____ in every aspect of our lives. When people draw _____ the Lord, they find peace and meaning in life. They have the ability to _____, even in the harshest times.

When life tumbles in, Christians find solace and _____ in the Lord. God’s prophet Jeremiah watched his world tremble and stumble when Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians. He wrote, “This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. The LORD’S loving-kindnesses indeed never _____, For His compassions never _____. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I have hope in Him’” (Lamentations 3:21-24).

Oh, every day God gives us life and the things that we _____ to sustain life. We breathe God’s air, eat God’s food, and drink God’s water. God is so _____ to us. Even when ugly and hurtful things happen to us, God knows how to use those hurtful things for _____. The Bible says, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who _____ God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). God can use our defeats and disappointments to shape and mold us, so that we become _____ people.

Even when God says no to our _____, He does so for our best interest. The Bible

records when God said no to an apostle. Paul speaks, “So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a _____ was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded to the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But He (God) said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in _____.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I’m _____ with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am _____, then I am _____” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

God sees our needs even _____ we do. He knows what is _____ for our character and what will help us spiritually. He gives us great hope by forgiving our _____. You might think there is no way God would ever forgive you of all your sins; but if you think that, you’d be mistaken. Before Paul was an apostle of Christ, he was the persecutor, Saul of Tarsus. By inspiration he wrote, “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of _____ acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life” (1 Timothy 1:15-16). If the _____ of Christ could wash away the sins of the worst sinner of all, it’ll also wash away your sins.

You can go to heaven, no matter how many sins you’ve committed, because of the _____ of our God and how it is greater than our sins; and the Lord gives us the opportunity and the ability to change. This change is repentance, and repentance is an opportunity _____ of hope. You don’t have to be stuck in your _____ life. The Lord can help you _____ your life around. This ability to change comes from our _____ in the Lord and His teaching through the Word, the Bible. The more we read and understand about the Lord, the more we’ll _____ Him. This love for God in our hearts gives us _____ to make lasting changes.

God can break us _____ from enslavement to sin. The Lord Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). Enslavement to sin _____ hope and has filled our prisons and our cemeteries, but the Scripture says more. The Lord also says, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” God can set us free from the enslaving _____ that sin has on our lives. Hope means I do not have to be entrapped by my past sin. God can turn my life around and strengthen me to become the person that He desires.

Hope also means that this life is not all there is; that there is life beyond the _____ far better than our lives here. The Lord Jesus promised, “Let not your hearts be _____. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many _____. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am there you may be also” (John 14:1-3). We not only can live eternally, we can live in _____ with Jesus. In heaven, we can have His blessing and comfort _____.

The Scripture says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to

his great mercy, he has caused us to be _____ again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's _____ are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:3-5). Wouldn't you like to be in a place that is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away? Wouldn't you like to be in a place without disease, death, weeping, or sin? Wouldn't you like to live _____ in the presence of God and Christ who love you?

Some people think it's impossible to be a Christian and live a _____ life, but the Lord Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you _____. Take my yoke upon you, and _____ from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). You can go to _____; you can bear the easy yoke of Christ and bear His light burden. Christianity is a livable faith. But you must take up that yoke and _____ Christ with faith and love.

Why does all this matter? It matters, because our hope is not _____. It's alive and well! We have hope in Christ because of the _____, and we have hope in Christ because of the resurrection. We don't have to _____ in sin; we can _____ eternally. Christ paid the _____ for our sins. We don't serve a dead Lord but a risen one who lives forever! Because He lives, we have the _____ of living with Him in heaven forever and ever. There is a big difference between those who belong to Christ and those who do not. Don't you want to belong to Jesus?

Can you imagine how _____ and _____ life is without hope? Some scoff at God, and others _____ He exists. Those who belong to Christ greatly _____ from those who don't. Paul reminded the Ephesian pagans of their past before they became Christians. Paul said, "remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having _____ hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). God is no _____, as some think. God is your only _____ hope. He is your Creator; He sustains your life; and His Son is your only Savior. Without Him, you have no hope! But with Christ, "you are fellow _____ with the saints and members of God's household (or family)" (Ephesians 2:19).

As I have said, those who belong to Christ greatly differ from those who don't. That's why it matters whether you are right with the Lord and whether your sins are _____. Is your life right with God? Have you been washed in the blood of Christ? You're washed in the blood, when you put your faith in Christ, lovingly repent of your sins, confess the name of the Lord, and are baptized into Christ. In the act of baptism, God washes away your sins and adds you to His family, the church. When you have the hope of God in your life, because He's washed away your sins and added your name to the book of life, you can have confidence to face every trouble and trial life hands you. In Christ, the Father will hear your prayers. With God's book, the Bible, you have the Divine truth. Wouldn't you like to have your sins forgiven today? Why not place your hope in Christ today by being baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins?