

Jesus Christ, the Only Hope of Jew and Gentile Alike

Rom 15:4-13 ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." ¹⁰ And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" ¹¹ And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" ¹² And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." 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.

Have you ever quoted an Old Testament passage to present the basis or truthfulness of a particular doctrinal position only to have the one to whom you are speaking to respond with these words, "But that's the Old Testament"? I really believe one of the most serious errors that affects what is called the Evangelical Church today is the dispensational teaching that separates the Church in the New Testament from the Old Testament Israel of God. Now the reason I say that is because once you make a difference as to why Christ came into this world regarding the Jews versus why He came regarding the Gentiles you have totally misunderstood the central teaching of the whole of the Old Testament.

Paul in this passage makes it quite clear that the reason Christ came into the world was the salvation of both Jew and Gentile alike. We shall see that Jesus Christ fulfilled the promise to Abraham regarding his Seed in whom all the world would be blessed. When Paul writes, *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope*" he intends for us to realize that all of the promises of Old Testament prophecies, types and shadows have been fulfilled in Christ Jesus our Lord. And it is most important to understand that Paul here is referring to the Scriptures of the Old Testament.

Let me assure you that those in the church today who have a low regard for the Old Testament, a low regard for the law, cannot properly understand the glorious news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now we need not think it strange that there are those today that exhibit this low regard for the Scriptures of the Old Testament. I found it quite interesting that Calvin remarks on this passage with these words,

Moreover, we find here a most striking condemnation of those fanatics who vaunt that the Old Testament is abolished, and that it belongs not in any degree to Christians; for with what front can they turn away Christians from those things which, as Paul testifies, have been appointed by God for their salvation?

We shall then note this morning that First, God alone is the source of the believer's hope. Secondly, The Scriptures (both the Old and New Testament) are the means of the believer's hope. And in Conclusion, that this is made a surety to us by the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Scriptures.

A. The source of the believer's hope is God alone. - ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort . . . ¹³ Now may the God of hope

1. What glorious titles of our God - The God of patience, comfort and hope.

- a. This is not hope in the sense that the word is commonly used today which only speaks of that for which we hope may happen.
- b. Rather, we as God's elect have a most perfect hope founded on the sure promises of God fulfilled for us in Christ.

Heb 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.

- c. This is founded upon the basis that the God revealed to us in Holy Scripture "cannot lie".

Heb 6:17-18 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

- d. We know this from the example of the Old Testament how patiently God dealt with Israel of old.

Ps 103:13-14 As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Ps 78:38-39 But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath; for He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again.

2. This is none other than the God of Holy Scripture who calls both Jew and Gentile alike to faith in Jesus Christ.

*2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*¹⁶ *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and **given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,***¹⁷ *comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

3. With great comfort and hope we know that He will present us faultless before our God.

B. The Scriptures (both the Old and New Testament) are the means of the believer's hope.

1. The means whereby we know this is twofold - Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit working faith in us.

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1 Peter 1:23-25 ". . . *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, **but the word of the Lord endures forever.**"*

2. Paul here then reference Scriptures from all portions of the Scriptures of the Old Testament, that is, from the Law, the Prophets and the Writings.

Deut 32:43 "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people;

Ps 18:49 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name.

Ps 117:1 Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

Isa 11:10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

3. so doing Paul here presents in a most concise manner **two consequences of the work of Christ.** - ⁸ *Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,*⁹ *and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:*

a. That the truth of God has been vindicated by the fulfillment of the promises made to the Jews.

b. That the Gentiles have been led to praise God for his mercy.

4. Thus our Lord has fulfilled all the promises of God made to the saints of the Old Testament in Christ Jesus, - *Jesus Christ **has become a servant** to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers*

a. Note carefully He did not come as a Ruler to the circumcision but as a servant.

b. This may be a problem for dispensationalist and for the Pharisees but not for the elect of God.

c. Rather Jesus Christ has confirmed (made sure) all the promises made to the fathers.

d. And in so doing has provided salvation for both the Jews and the Gentiles, - ⁹ *and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written.*

5. This means is accomplished by the Holy Spirit working faith in us. - *that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*

Conclusion: We can conclude then, that according to the Scriptures, all that Jesus Christ has done for us is made a surety to us by the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Scriptures.

And thus Paul prays then to this end¹³ *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.*

And as God's elect we may all ". . . *through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*"

That the Church, being comprised both of Jew and Gentile alike ". . . *may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

And thus Paul concludes his foundational principle that he is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ . . .

Rom 1:16 ". . . *for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*