

*Hymns 42, 295, 358, 701, 708, 714, 727*

“The God of Hope”

Romans 15:13

**<sup>13</sup> 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. Romans 15:13 (NKJV)**

*We are coming near the end of Paul’s letter to the Romans ...*

*Paul ends His letter focusing on Hope - SOLID Heavenly HOPE ...*

- 1. Now, near the conclusion of Paul’s letter, Paul shares with his readers, his desire and prayer for them -*

**<sup>13</sup> Now may ...**

- 1. He has given them instruction both in doctrine, Romans 1-11, and duty Romans 12 until here, and this is closing prayer –*
- 2. “hope” mentioned in this prayer means it is a prayer for their future, we have a solid “hope” in Heaven!*
- 3. The joy and peace for which he prays for them, is for NOW... as well as abounding in hope by the power of God’s Spirit!*
- 4. That this PRAYER was answered is proved by early church history, the church in Rome endured great persecutions: starting with Nero their fire lit bodies were lamps, and later Roman emperors fed them to wild-beasts for the entertainment of ungodly masses coming to the Colosseum, their graves in the Roman Catacombs, are testimony to this fact!*

*II. The Prayer of Hope is, of course, prayed to the God of Hope –*

<sup>13</sup> **Now may the God of hope ...**

*1. No one ever has any true hope without God and Jesus Christ –*

*A. Paul speaking to the Ephesians Gentiles said,*

<sup>12</sup> **that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.**  
**Ephesians 2:12 (NKJV)**

*B. True hope and eternal life are connected to knowing God –*

<sup>3</sup> **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)**

*Theology, the Study of or knowledge of God, used to be called “The Queen of the Sciences.”*

*It was called the “Queen of the Sciences” because the other sciences depended upon it.*

*The worldview which starts with and is built upon the concept of God and His creating all things, with design and purpose, is necessary for rightly understanding our world.*

*c. Sadly, atheists and materialists have been successful in removing Theology from the category SCIENCE, even without any evidence or proof ...*

*They have merely redefined “science” to include a Presupposition of anti-supernaturalism!*

*Basically, what they are saying is atheism = science, belief in God has to be fiction, something we MAKE UP! That is where they START! But Scripture tells us ...*

<sup>10</sup> **But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. Jeremiah 10:10 (NKJV)**

2. *Sadly, even many churches fall for FALSE TEACHING that theology is not science, that God is something we make up, to give us false hope ...*

*Not true! Our God, the God of Hope is the Living and True God, we aim to change minds about Him, while other “gods” are false; He is REAL –*

**<sup>9</sup> For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NKJV)**

*The whole politically correct idea that all concepts of God are equal, and equally can get us to Heaven, is both false and atheistic, it assumes we created God, not that God created us –*

**<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)**

*III. The Prayer is for a filling, a fulness, a glorious satisfaction –*

**<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,**

1. *God is the God of Hope and He is more than able to fill us with joy and peace, even in the worst circumstances –*

A. *Ungodly people in this world totally LACK THIS –*

*“I can’t get no SATISFACTION” The Rolling Stones*

B. *Hope is something they typically despise ... WHY? Because hope is for things not yet seen! Hope is for future things and their joy and peace depends upon, NOW, having all they want NOW...*

C. *Our satisfaction is dependent upon God and our belief in God, we KNOW HIS WORD is TRUE!*

*D. Our hope is for exceeding glory –*

**<sup>17</sup> For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, <sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (NKJV)**

*E. Peter's readers had this glorious hope, this golden faith –*

**<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. 1 Peter 1:3–9 (NKJV)**

*2. Note the particulars of this HOPE –*

*A. The word “fill” is used –*

*Fill – Greek πληρώσαι meaning to fulfil, complete, satisfy*

*B. Two thing God fills us with –*

**with all joy and peace ... “all joy” “means all possible joy.” Charles Hodge**

***B1 - Joy* <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!  
Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)**

*Hymns 42, 295, 358, 701, 708, 714, 727*

*For Paul and Silas, in Philippi, this joy was a prison shaking, chain breaking joy, that was part of hymn singing at midnight, it was clearly NOT dependent upon nice circumstances –*

**<sup>22</sup> Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.**

**<sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.**

**<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. Acts 16:22–26 (NKJV)**

*B2 – Peace –* **<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)**

*B3 - The ungodly cannot have this peace –*

**<sup>22</sup> “*There is no peace,*” says the LORD, “for the wicked.” Isaiah 48:22 (NKJV)**

**<sup>21</sup> “*There is no peace,*” Says my God, “for the wicked.” Isaiah 57:21 (NKJV)**

*C. When and how we have these things ... Now, in believing, or through believing God, faith is the key to joy & peace –*

**<sup>11</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)**

#### *IV. God wants us to abound in hope -*

**<sup>13</sup> ... that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 15:13 (NKJV)**

1. *Abound – περισσεύειν the idea here is we are surrounded by hope, abounding means we are finding it EVERYWHERE –*

*In front, in back, both left and right, above me, below me, in front of my face ... wherever I turn hope is there*

2. *By the power of the Holy Spirit – The third Person in the Godhead, by His power – δυνάμει like dynamite, except instead of destroying things the Spirit's power brings things together ...*

3. *Hope for what?*

A. *Heaven*

B. *To see God*

C. *To reunite with loved ones ...*

D. *Deliverance from sin...*

E. *Marriage to Jesus / His return*

F. *Judgment and condemnation of the ungodly*

G. *Glory, and God-glorified*

H. *Abounding hope makes us sing –*

**<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,**

*I. Abounding hope makes those songs POWERFUL –*

**<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. Acts 16:22–26 (NKJV)**

- *Prisoners listened*
- *A useful liberating earth quake, prisoners were freed, a jailer and his family were saved!*

*Hymns 42, 295, 358, 701, 708, 714, 727*

*J. We have hope for those we pray for their salvation ...*

*K. We should pray for Holy Spirit POWER –*

**<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:9–13 (NKJV)**

*Arnold A. Brevick*