

Series Title: Truth Unashamed, Part 6- How then shall we live?

Sermon Title: Week 7: Hope Overflowing Date: 06-16-19

- **TODAY we finish part 7 of our journey through Romans- began in chap 12... “How do we live”... Also finish the Paul’s formal teaching for the entire book- one more section, as he wraps up with a few closing thoughts and comments**
- **SEVERAL TIMES throughout this study, I’ve said “we need to take scripture seriously”... when you hear that, probably think of serious topics like sin, eternal destiny, how we live... SCRIPTURE does speak to these. BUT, today, thing we need to take seriously is**

† **The all-important, essential, non-negotiable, New Covenant principle of ABUNDANCE!**

- **2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.... IN CHRIST, we are not promised protection from difficulty of this life, but we are promised LIFE, LOVE, PURPOSE, IDENTITY... our deepest needs, desires of our hearts... and what God gives, HE GIVES IN ABUNDANCE. NOW, we can look at life and deny this, but if we believe that this is God’s word, we need to take this premise, this promise, seriously.... Just consider these...**

2 Peter 1:2 *Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 5:15 *For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

Colossians 2:6-7 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

Ephesians 3:17b-21 *... I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

2 Corinthians 4:6-10 *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

Ephesians 1:17-23 *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus*

Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe... ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Colossians 2:9 *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form... FULLNESS IN CHRIST...*

- **FRIENDS! Many wonderful temporary things in this life we can enjoy- but they alone will not bring us abundance of life**
- **Religion and it’s cultural expressions can have great meaning and purpose, but religion alone will not bring you abundance of life.**
- **ONLY ONE SOURCE... and it is LIFE OF CHRIST to us, in us, and through us.**

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

- **Paul began his letter by stating that IN THE GOSPEL we see God’s righteousness fully given to us (para)... and that God’s righteousness, and our rightness with him, is not by**

performance, but by FAITH. NOW, as he moves toward bringing his letter to a close, he shows us how this LIFE OF FAITH- receiving his Life one step of faith at a time in the reality of each day- this is life of abundance. PAUL BEGINS WITH..

Romans 15:7 *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

† In Christ there is abundant ACCEPTANCE

- **HOW HAS CHRIST ACCEPTED US?** *When we were sinners. When we were God's enemies. When we were spiritually dead. When our identity was still defined by our 'flesh'. From human perspective, "when we were totally, completely, and consistently offensive and in all other ways unacceptable"... THAT is when Christ declared us worth his life. That is when He died for us, took our unacceptability upon Himself, gave His life both for us and to us, and accepted us. KEY!! Christ doesn't demand we 'get acceptable' and then accept us. No. In the midst of our sin, pride, and brokenness He fully accepts us, and then calls us to follow him in the journey of becoming acceptable. BECOMING WHO WE ALREADY ARE! So, how your neighbor?*
- **SAME-** *accept each other! We all fail, we all are on the journey! STOP JUDGING, fix eyes of Christ, accept one another, and walk alongside each other*
- **Boundaries? Wisdom? YES!** *But Christ's Spirit in us is spirit of ACCEPTANCE.*
- **In Paul's time, for much of history, two groups at odds- not accepting, but adversaries- Jews and Gentiles. GOD'S PROMISE-** *all of Romans- is for BOTH. They shall be one because of the unity that comes from new life in Christ. FIRST, Paul speaks to the Jews... He tells them that...*

† Christ is fulfillment of Gods PROMISE

Romans 15:8 *For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed*

- **Basically, Christ lived his life as a servant to his own people- everything he did, said, most importantly the cross- because HIS LIFE/DBR fulfilled/confirmed the promises God made to the Jews in the OT.**
- **JEWS-** *everything you have yearned for, hoped for, the purpose of everything that God has done through your people... IT ALL HAS BROUGHT YOU TO CHRIST. Purpose of OC was to lead to NC!*
- **THEN TURNS TO GENTILES- US. THIS PROMISE, THIS GREAT HOPE, it is equally for us, and it will lead people who did not know God to not only KNOW HIM, But come to WORSHIP HIM. IN CHRIST...**

† An abundance of WORSHIP

Romans 15:9-12 *...and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:*

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." (Psalm 18:49)

¹⁰ *Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." (Deut 32:43)*

¹¹ *And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." (Psalm 117:1)*

¹² *And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." (Isaiah 11:10)*

- **What? Takes some digging, but incredible picture**
- **Four OT references (provided if you want to dig)**
- **FIRST: Psalm 18-** *God has saved Israel by defeating gentile enemies. Picture of Gentiles seeing Jews worshipping their God*
- **SECOND: Deut 32-** *Again context of God delivering Israel from enemies, but now picture of gentiles joining Israel in worship of God*

- **THIRD: Psalm 117: Picture of gentiles- all people, turning to God themselves and worshipping God. Shortest of all psalms...**

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

² For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD.

- **Lets bring this one personal... imagine a person separated from God, fighting against him**
 - **See God's people worshipping, experiencing- That is real, heart pulls you toward**
 - **Begin to come alongside believers...**
 - **Full relationship, you are worshiping God for his faithfulness and love to you.**
- **FOURTH: All possible because of Christ- Isaiah 11- prophecy of coming of Christ, the one in whom the gentiles, the world, will put their hope.**
- **FOR THE JEWS, THE GENTILES, PAUL TAKES EVERYTHING HE HAS WRITTEN AND SAYS... THIS LIFE... ITS FOR YOU!**
- **CONCLUDES HIS THEOLOGY OF LETTER with one of great statements of NT... by faith, the abundant gift of LIFE we receive in Christ...**

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

✠ An abundance of **JOY**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy

- **JOY, deep experience of God's goodness as we trust Him, follow him, increasingly live in obedience to Him. JOY that comes from understanding WHO GOD REALLY IS, WHO WE ARE... NO CONDEMNATION... FREE FROM LAW AND PERFORMANCE as basis of relationship... "I've told you... joy may be complete!"**

✠ An abundance of **PEACE**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace

- **Peace is the foundation of trust God gives us, that he is in control, come what may, he knows the big picture, and he is GOOD. DEEP FAITH... faith Jesus invited his followers into eve of hardest night...**

John 14:25-27 *"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

✠ An abundance of **HOPE**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope

- **HOPE of eternity. HOPE that God is at work NOW. HOPE that He is leading me into a greater experience of his goodness, because He has given His PRES...**

✠ This is all true because of Christ's abundance **PRESENCE**

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- **Everything we have learned in entire book- God's Hope, Joy, Peace, Love- these are not things we can generate on our own. We don't have to. We aren't designed to. We are created to be in relationship with God, by His Spirit, as we TRUST IN HIM, WE RECEIVE THESE, one step of faith, at a time.**

John 7:37-38 ³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

- **This overflowing water, it is the Spirit. It is HIM. By faith, He is with us, he is with you. BECAUSE HE IS WITH YOU- BECAUSE OF HIM**
 - **You are accepted**
 - **His promise of life, hope, freedom.. IT'S FOR YOU**
 - **Each day, as we trust in him, living in relationship with him, we will increasingly experience His HOPE, HIS JOY, HIS PEACE- in abundance**