

## THE CONDITION OF HOPE

**Text: I Thessalonians 5:8**

**Key Word:** Hope

**Key Thought:** Hope Will Always Leave the Recipient in a Better Condition.

\*\* Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling lonely, so God asked Adam, *“What’s wrong with you?”*

Adam said that he was finding the time long because he didn’t have anyone to talk to. God told him that He was going to make him a companion - **a woman**. This woman would cook for him and wash all his clothes. She would always agree with every decision he would make. She would bear him children and never ask him to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She would never nag, and always be the first to admit she was wrong when they were having a disagreement. She would never have a headache, and would freely give him love and compassion whenever he needed it.

Adam asked God, *“What would a woman like that cost?”*

God said, *“An arm and leg.”*

Adams replied, *“What can I get for just a rib?”*

The rest is history.

\*\* There was a huge nut tree by the cemetery fence. Two boys were filling up a bucket of nuts before they sat down by a tree nearby. Out of sight, they started dividing up the nuts they had gathered. *“One for you and one for me.”* As they were counting, a couple of nuts rolled under the fence.

The third boy came cycling down the road. He heard voices so he decided to investigate. As he approached the fence, he heard the two boys say, *“One for you and one for me.”* He ran away as quick as he could, thinking, *“O my, Satan and Saint Peter are dividing souls at the cemetery!”*

As he was going down the road, he found an old man hobbling along with a cane. This man had hoped that someday he could walk and run again. The young boy pleaded with him to come and listen to the voices. The old man shooed him away. *“Boy, can’t you see I’m having trouble walking as it is? I would love to be able to walk without my cane, but I’m just too old and frail”* But the boy was determined. \*\*

(Contd.)

\*\* Finally the old man hobbled down to the fence at the cemetery. They listened in on the conversation and once more heard, “*One for you and one for me.*”

“*O my,*” said the old man, “*It IS the Devil and Saint Peter dividing up souls!*” He turned to the boy. “*Let’s try to get a little closer so we can see them!*” They edged toward the fence but they still were unable to see anything.

Finally they heard them say once more. “*One for you and one for me. Now, let’s get those two nuts by the fence and will be done.*” Amazingly the old man beat the boy running to town by 15 minutes. **He got what he had hoped for, yet not in the way he had hoped for.** \*\*

<http://members.tripod.com/donparent/christianhumor.htm>

## What Will Hope in God Do for You Personally?

### I. HOPE WILL BRING YOU JOY (Romans 12:12)

### II. HOPE WILL BRING YOU ASSURANCE (Colossians 1:27; I Thessalonians 5:8)

### III. HOPE WILL BRING YOU REST (Titus 1:2; 2:13)

#### I. HOPE WILL BRING YOU JOY (Romans 12:12)

With all the complexities of life increasing, many good Christians have lost their joy. They look like they’ve been baptized in lemon juice. We need to tell our face what our heart knows to be true. Joy is one of the many ways that our heart pours forth its abundance.

“Joy is the echo of God’s life within us.”

Joseph Marmion “Orthodoxy”

Frank Smead

“12,000 Religious Quotations” p. 258

Joy is one of those wonderful things that we can share with others. In fact, it grows as we share it. Since there are so many people who need to be affected by joy, doesn’t it make sense to give it away? Those who give it away will never find themselves lacking. **When you spread it around, it multiplies rather than divides itself.** The best testimony we can have is what others see in and through our lives. We should be leading people to Christ by the joy that God has set within us. That joy that I’m speaking about comes from our deep-rooted hope in God.

*“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*

*Romans 12:12*

## I. Hope Will Bring You Joy (Romans 12:12) (Contd.)

### 2829 - The Lighted Face of Judson

\*\*\* Many years ago when the great missionary Adoniram Judson was home on furlough, he passed through the city of Stonington, Connecticut. A young boy playing about the waterfront at the time of Judson's arrival was struck by the man's appearance. Never before had he seen such a light on any human face. He ran up the street to a local minister to ask if he knew who the stranger was. The minister hurried back with him, but became so absorbed in conversation with Judson that he forgot all about the impatient youngster standing near him.

Many years afterward that boy – who could never get away from the influence of that wonderful face -- became the famous preacher Henry Clay Trumbull. In a book of memoirs he penned a chapter entitled: "***What a Boy Saw in the Face of Adoniram Judson.***" That lighted countenance had changed his life. Even as flowers thrive when they bend to the light, so shining, radiant faces come to those who constantly turn toward Christ! \*\*\*

Mrs. Ruby Miller

Paul Lee Tan

Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations

pp. 680-681

## II. Hope Will Bring You Assurance (Colossians 1:27; I Thessalonians 5:8)

There is the second wonderful result of having hope in your life - that is a deep-seated assurance. I have found the more I place my hope in God, the more assurance I have for the future. God gives me strength for tomorrow. The fears of this world seemed to fade away in the light of God's glory. God has demystified what had been hidden for ages. Hope was reestablished into the hearts of the people when Jesus came and ministered to those in need.

*"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

*Colossians 1:27*

*"But since we belong to the day, let us be self controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet."*

*I Thessalonians 5:8*

## II. Hope Will Bring You Assurance (Colossians 1:27; I Thessalonians 5:8)

Hope will bring you an assurance that will stand in the time of testing. With all the recent talk about the problems through our world, it could be very easy to lose your assurance about the future. **So many people are breaking down and losing any hope or assurance that they need to proceed in life.** May the gospel message never lose its basis of hope and assurance.

\*\* Jesus and Satan were having an argument as to who was the better computer programmer. This went on for a few hours until they came to agreement to hold a contest, with God the Father as the judge. They sat themselves before their computers and began. They typed furiously, lines of coding streamed up their screen, for several hours straight. Seconds before the end of the completion, a bolt of lightning struck, took out the electricity.

Moments later, the power was restored, and God the Father announced that the contest was over. He asked Satan to show what he and come up with. Satan was visibly upset, and cried, *"I have nothing. I have lost all I had worked on when the power went out."*

*"Very well, then,"* said God, *"lets see if Jesus fared out any better."* Jesus entered a command, and His screen came to life in vivid display, with voices of an angelic choir pouring out from His speakers. Satan was astonished. He shuttered, *"But how? I had lost everything, yet Jesus' program is intact! How did He do that?"*

God the Father chuckled, *"You should know by now . . . Jesus saves!"* \*\*

<http://members.tripod.com/donparent/christianhumor.htm>

## III. Hope Will Bring You Rest (Titus 1:2; 2:13)

The third and final thing that hope will bring us is rest. We are hearing more often of doctors need to prescribe antidepressants to people who have used their adrenaline gland to its extreme. These people live in a perpetual state of adrenaline withdrawal. Their body is tired - really tired. They simply do not know how to turn off. They have yet to discover that . . .

**Renewal = Routine /Rest**

### III. Hope Will Bring You Rest (Titus 1:2; 2:13) (Contd.)

The more we keep to routines without rest, the less our body will be able to renew itself. In our fast-paced society we need to understand ways of gaining rest. Hope is one of the greatest ways to find rest. Those without hope are often without rest. Those who place their hope in God are often the ones who gain the greatest amount of hope available.

*“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness –  
2. a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie promised before the beginning of time,  
3. And at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior.”*

*Titus 1:1 – 3*

Even though the apostle Paul was called to preach the gospel, it never became a routine for him. He was able to find rest in the very hope of eternal life that he preached. Therefore, he kept himself in a continual renewal of rest based upon the hope of the message found in the gospel that was entrusted to him. The hope that Paul had was not simply based upon the past or even the present, he also had a hope in the future.

*“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.  
12. It teaches us to saying “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,  
13. While we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”*

*Titus 2:11 – 13*

Hope that is for today is never enough. To find true rest we must place our hope in a wonderful future. God must always be in the equation in order for rest to be found and maintained. Have you found that rest in Christ today? God has prepared the way for every single one of us to obtain rest.

No one can bypass their need for rest. It is also true that no one can bypass God. He is ever before us offering rest. We must choose to accept or reject both God and the rest He offers. **Why would anyone refuse what they need the most?**

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C:\My Documents\WPWin(2021)\Sermons.21\Hope\I Thessalonians 5\_8.wpd

Date: Nov 28/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Spirit of the Living God (Fill ME Anew) - C  
Change my Heart O God - C

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