

Christmas Hope
December 4, 2016
By: Shaun Brown

Romans 15:11-13

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth.” ¹² And in another place Isaiah said, “The heir to David’s throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him.” ¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (NLT)

I. Worship is the _____ of all _____.

John 4:23-24

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.” (NLT)

II. Hope in the _____ line of _____.

2 Samuel 7:16

Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.’ ” (NLT)

Matthew 1:20-21

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (NLT)

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. (NLT)

III. The gospel _____ us with _____.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (NLT)

Romans 5:3-5

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. (NLT)

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Small Group Questions

*You do NOT have to answer or discuss every question. Feel free to just pick a few. These are meant to guide you in truth. If you are having trouble answering a question, ask your small group leader to help you. They are committed to helping you develop as an authentic follower of Christ.

The COMMUNITY:

1. Did you have any meaningful conversations with those you spent Thanksgiving with this year? If so, spend time praying for those people.

Into the WORD/APPLICATION:

Here are some suggested sites in order to dive deeper into God's Word: blueletterbible.org, desiringgod.org/articles/all, biblos.com, ccel.org, logos.com, connect.ligonier.org, thegospelcoalition.org/channel/bible-and-theology.

1. Read Romans 15:8-13.
 - a. Why does the Apostle Paul quote Old Testament Scriptures in this section?
 - b. Consider Romans 15:13. How is Christian hope different from worldly (secular) hope?

2. Read Galatians 4:1-7.

- a. What statements does Paul make in this passage that are particularly comforting to you?
- b. How can you apply being “a son” (or daughter) in your daily life?
- c. What are some ways that this text is distorted in local churches?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

- a. Spend time discussing what Paul means when he says “The old has passed away, behold the new has come.”
- b. What does “reconciliation” mean in this passage and what is the “message of reconciliation”?
- c. Spend time discussing verse 21. What does it mean? Why does it matter?