
The Hope of the Gospel
A Study of the Book of Romans
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Key Truth: Faith in the God who accounted Abraham righteous, accepted Christ's sacrifice, and raised him from the dead produces a confident hope that he will do the same for us.

The hopelessness many feel in our world has less to do with outside conditions or struggles and more to do with an attitude of the heart. Our sense of hopelessness is often a symptom of our own pride. Yet, when we humble ourselves before God, he gives more grace to overcome the challenges of life. We may even feel a greater sense of hope-fullness. According to Psalm 42:5-6a, the key to having hope in a hopeless world is to hope in God rather than in oneself. God provides this hope (confidence in him and his Word) in the gospel.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 4:18-25** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "The Hope of the Gospel."

DIG IN

We can have confident hope in God as we ...

1. Follow the Pattern of Abraham's faith. (Romans 4:18-22)

According to verse 19, what were the weaknesses that Abraham considered? How might considering our own weaknesses cause us to feel a sense of hopelessness in life?

How did considering God's strength (v. 21) cause Abraham to become convinced that God's promise would come to pass?

What caused Abraham to grow in his faith (v. 20)? What kinds of things might we also do to grow in our own faith?

2. Believe in God's Promise of Justification. (Romans 4:23-24)

According to verse 24, who do we believe in? Why is this important?

In what ways does it encourage you that God applies Abraham's promises to us through faith?

3. Is Rest in the Proof of Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection. (Romans 4:25)

Who delivered up Jesus for our trespasses (see John 19:11; Acts 2:23; Romans 8:32)? Why is that important?

In what ways does Jesus' resurrection prove the sufficiency of his crucifixion?

In what ways does Jesus crucifixion and resurrection eliminate any possibility for us to boast in ourselves and eliminate any need for us to worry about the state of our world?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?