


Message-Based Outline and Questions
For Personal Study and Home Group Discussions

 **MESSAGE:** Review the sermon and explore the message by using these questions.

 **OPEN IT:** Use the following questions and points to begin your study:

Have you felt discouraged recently? Do you need hope?

What around you in the last year has contributed the most to any discouragement that you might have?

Are there families around you who need encouragement?

What does the word "hope" mean to you?

 **EXPLORE IT:** Now dig deeper into God's Word:

Why do you need to be justified before God?

How are you justified before God?

What benefits come to you from justification?

Can you boast of anything relating to your justification?

About what can you boast, after your justification?

 **APPLY IT:** Use these questions to apply the message to your life:

How can you re-focus your life for 2021? What are you called to do?

How can you care for others?

What can you do daily to remind you of your hope?

Are you tuning out the important things in life? Do the unimportant drown out the important?

Are the worries of this world taking you away from God? Is God at the forefront of your new year?

Can you take 15 minutes at the beginning of each day to focus on God? Can you quiet your soul daily?

Memorize James 4:8 as a reminder to you to begin each day with God: "8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." (James 4:8, NIV)

 **PRAYER:** Pray throughout the week, remembering the needs of others in your Home Group:

Pray that God will renew your hope.

Pray that you will experience faith, hope, and love in 2021.

Pray that the world (Satan) would not divert your focus on God.

Pray for a focus on hope.

BIG IDEA: We Must Not Lose Sight Of The Hope We Have In Jesus.

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 5:1-5

"¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:1-5, NIV)

Paul tells us that three things are paramount and will persist; they should be at the core of your being:

- Faith
 - Faith in Jesus brings you to be able to have hope and love.
 - Faith is at the core of the Gospel.
- Hope
 - Hope may be the most difficult for you.
 - Hope includes an expectation and a desire.
 - But hope also includes confidence - confidence in the power of God to bring good to you.
 - Hope is at the core of thriving, not just surviving.
 - True hope can only be found in Jesus.

- God's promises often seem to contradict what appears in the world around you.
- Love
 - You have an innate desire to be in loving relationships.
 - You have a desire also to be in a loving relationship with God.

Key Questions For You To Answer:

- Where does your hope come from?
- How do you find hope in this broken world?

Hope: (Paul wrote Romans to encourage believers in Rome who were being persecuted and who needed hope themselves.)

1. We Have Hope In Jesus As Our Redeemer. (v. 1-2)

- Believers are justified by faith.
- Grace extends beyond forgiveness.
- Look at the words of the hymn: *Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing* (Robert Robinson, 1758)

<p>1 Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the face of God; He, to save my soul from danger, Interposed His precious blood.</p>	<p>3 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love: Take my heart, oh, take and seal it With Thy Spirit from above. Rescued thus from sin and danger, Purchased by the Savior's blood, May I walk on earth a stranger, As a son and heir of God.</p>
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- You are prone to wander, prone to leave the God you love.
- The world looks broken. You forget your blessings and complain.
- Yet your blessings overshadow any and all of your problems.
- You can boast in Jesus.
- You can boast in your sufferings:
 - Suffering produces perseverance (resistance to pressure), allowing you to stand firm.
 - Perseverance produces character (tested value).
 - Character produces hope.
- Suffering tests you. Suffering leads to hope.
- Suffering displays where your values should be.
- Suffering reminds you of God's power.

2. We Have Hope Instilled In Us By The Holy Spirit. (v. 3-5)

- It can be difficult to keep hope alive. You are prone to wander.
- Acts 1:6-8 - "6 Then they [the disciples] gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' 7 He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' "
- The disciples asked about Jesus' return - the time, the place, and the manner.
 - Jesus told them that they were not to know, but He promised that a Helper would come to them.
 - They would receive power, a guide, a helper, in the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus told them that their existence was not just about this life, but also about a life to come.
 - The world as it is now will not be the end.
 - Romans 8:26-28 - " 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
 - You can miss the first part - the Holy Spirit is given to you.
 - The Holy Spirit works in you.

3. We Have Hope That We Won't Be Put To Shame In the Future. (v. 5)

- Your spirit will not die at your earthly death; you will be united with Jesus.
- Reliance on Jesus brings you life. You will not be put to shame in the future.
- This life is not the end; Jesus will redeem you in the end and make all things new.
- This world may seem to be deteriorating and crumbling around you. Death may seem imminent.
- But the end is certain; you know "the end of the story."
- You can have hope for the final outcome; God will be victorious in the end.

BIG IDEA: We Must Not Lose Sight Of The Hope We Have In Jesus.