



Christ the Hope for All
Romans 15:8-13

Main Idea: For the praise and glory of God, Jesus Christ is the hope for people from all nations.

Jesus became a servant to show God's truthfulness (8-12).

- *Jesus fulfilled God's promises related to the Messiah (8b).*
- *Jesus brought God's mercy to every nation (9-12).*
 - *The right response to God's mercy in Christ is joyful praise (9-12)!*

God is truth! Everything about God is true, and all that God says and does is truth. This is the testimony of Scripture and the reality of the experience of every true believer. God doesn't lie, and as a result, his promises to his people related to the Messiah – as well as his plans for redemption among the nations – are sure. Jesus became a servant to show God's truthfulness. Jesus came to earth and took on flesh to fulfill God's promises. Jesus died as a suffering servant for our sin and was raised from death to life to fulfill God's words through the prophets. In all these ways, the Jewish people should have clearly seen and understood that Jesus fulfilled God's promises related to the Messiah. However, these promises weren't exclusive to the Jewish people. From the very beginning, God's plan of redemption targeted the nations! From his promise to Abraham – reaffirmed to Isaac and Jacob and reinforced through the Psalms and the Prophets – God's plan was to use the nation of Israel as his chosen people through which he would bring blessing to people from every nation. It was through Jesus, the Son of God from the line of King David, that God brought mercy to every nation. Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), and his life, death, resurrection, and ascension point to and prove God's truthfulness. As a result, the right response to God's mercy in Christ is joyful praise! This is what God deserves from people of every nation, which includes you!

1. Considering the promises of God to Israel, look back to some of the earliest promises God gave to his people (Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; 22:18; 26:1-5; 28:10-17). How do these promises point to the Messiah? How do they point to God's plan to redeem sinners from all nations?
2. Use the BlueLetterBible app to look up the cross-references for verses 9-12. Why did Paul emphasize and remind the church of God's plan of redemption for people from every nation?
3. In the verses from question 2, how do you see God's design and desire for people from every nation to praise and to worship him? Why is this important? Why is it right?
4. Reading through verses 9-12 again, what are the verbs that God used to describe the ways that the nations would praise him? How do we do these things today as his church?

The hope of God is found in faith in Jesus Christ (13).

- *The Lord fills faith with joy and peace (13a).*
- *The Lord grows hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (13b).*

In considering the truthfulness of God that's displayed for every nation in the person and work of Jesus Christ, Paul worshipfully prays for the church, asking the Lord to do what only God can do to grow his church in the fruit of his Spirit. From this prayer of Paul, one thing is abundantly clear: The hope of God is found in faith in Jesus Christ. God is the God of truth. He is the one, true



God, who is the only true hope for sinners. The hope of God isn't found in the law. It isn't found in works; rather, by God's grace, the hope of God is found in faith! It is the Lord himself who fills believers with his joy and peace. These fruits of the Spirit aren't grown through walking by sight; instead, they are given by God through faith. The fruit of joy in the heart of a believer comes through God filling the believer with joy in his/her believing. The fruit of peace in the heart of a believer comes through God filling the believer with peace in his/her believing. In fact, it is the very presence and power of the Lord through God the Holy Spirit that grows and fills the believer with hope in his/her believing. The Lord fills faith with joy and peace, and the Lord grows hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. This prayer of Paul isn't without confirmation. It's confirmed in the experience of every true believer who walks by faith in the Spirit. Praise the Lord of joy, peace, and hope for the gift he gives people from every nation who turn in faith to his Son, our Savior and only hope, Jesus!

1. Use the BlueLetterBible app to do word studies on joy, peace, and hope. What are each of these? How would you describe biblical joy, peace, and hope to someone? Use the concordance from each word study to look at other verses that use each word in order to help you define joy, peace, and hope by God's Word.
2. From the first part of verse 13, who fills faith with joy and peace? What does Paul's prayer remind us about joy and peace? Is it something that we can produce or manufacture on our own? Is it something that comes through our effort or our believing? Why is this important?
3. From the second part of verse 13, what does the Holy Spirit grow through faith? Why is it important to understand the relationship between faith and hope, knowing that true, biblical hope comes from the Spirit through faith?
4. Do you have the hope of God that's found in faith in Jesus Christ? If not, why not today? If so, do you know someone who needs that hope? Share their name(s). Pray for them, and encourage each other to tell others this week about the hope of God in Christ Jesus!