



Romans 8 Pt. 6: Hope

Romans 8:24-25 *“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

Let’s go back to verse 4 for a minute. Romans 8: 4 *“in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”* Last study we talked about humans and creation waiting for the redemption of God’s children. I also made mention of the fullness of the gentiles. What has all this to do with verse 4? The law says we are condemned to death. Why? It’s because the law only exposes sin. We can’t be saved by the law. However, Jesus paid the price that the law required. A sin sacrifice to atone for us all under the law. Romans 8 is painfully trying to paint a picture. A picture of broken humankind under the law. This picture is also depicting the redemption of our soul by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:21 *“who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

You can look at fulness as full circle. We will be changed and we will be gathered to the Lord. Yet, the fulness of the law has not concluded at this time. There is more of the Spirit to be filled in gentile hearts. It’s not finished yet! Our two verses today talk about hope. A hope that the Jew, creation, and born-again gentiles have in Jesus’ atonement. A hope that God will accept this sacrifice for our sin. To fulfill the payment under the law. However, it’s not fulfilled yet. So, we wait in hope. Some people will

say hope could be called “maybe” God will save us. It’s as if he hasn’t decided. No, our hope is more like faith that He will do as He promised.

1 Peter 1:3-5 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

It's interesting that no matter the Bible book, the message is the same. It’s not just Paul. Peter is calling it a living hope. That means we are still holding on to a hope that Jesus sacrifice was enough. It’s living because it’s not dead but active. How do we know? It’s because the penalty under the law for sin is death. Yet, we are still alive. Since the fall of humans, we have been under two things: mercy and grace. God could have started over. Yet, He has chosen a different path. A path to redemption through His Son Christ Jesus. That is the hope we live for.

I love Paul challenging the world in verse 24. How many people have refused the gospel because they can’t get past the unseen God. If it’s unseen then it does not exist. Yet, their hope in evolution is strong. Their hope in the Big Bang is strong. Both of those things are unseen. They are theories not fact. People hope in ideology or governments. Yet, those things change with the times. So do theories and discoveries. Humans are always changing and updating what they know. The cool part about God is that He claims to never change. He is a solid foundation and rock we can have full hope in. However, God is unseen, or is He?

Are you ready to have your mind blown? Paul is about to reveal his genius mind. Romans 1:20 *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”* God is invisible? Paul says not a chance. The universe is too complex and too detailed to be random. Creation is

too beautiful and too diverse to just exist. Yes, Gods power and nature is seen in everything. This whole thing is not random or by chance. God did it. I can't prove Rembrandt exists. A history book says he did. We have pictures and art that have his name on it. They are a piece of him. The Bible says God exists. Creation has His name on it. It is a piece of the hope and proof that the unseen God exists. As does the unseen Rembrandt.

I am sure that some collector hopes for another painting for the collection. I have hockey cards I am missing. I hope to find them one day. Until then, I wait patiently. I hope for what is not seen yet. To say that there is no hope in the unseen is hypocritical. There are far too many examples of the unseen that we have faith in. In humanity, the future, and evolution. Yet, these things are unseen, but we hope. I may not physically see God but I hope for the day that I will. In the mean time I see His work in creation and in me. I see the fulness of the gentiles working itself out. I see that humanity and creation is groaning for something better than we see at this present time. In the meantime, what are we doing? We hope for things to come.