

Hope That Does Not Disappoint

Proverbs 13:12 says that *Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life*. Paul was no "pie-in-the-sky" guy. He was a realist. He had honest setbacks, disappointments, like us. But his hope was not tied to this world. It was anchored on the promises of God. This passage from 2 Corinthians 4 literally drips with hope - hope from God, based on who God is and what His purposes are.

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.....With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:8-18

The Solid Rock

This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Jeremiah just begins to hint at the life we have when we follow after God. Ultimately, all is well. This song points us to the eternal truths, most

of which are yet to come. Our eternal hope is awakened and stirred by these verses of song.

The Hope We Have

Life, of course, throws the unexpected at us, hoping to derail our faith and extinguish our hope. Listen to how Abraham's hope prevailed though his disappointment in God's timing was real. *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4:18-25*

Be Still My Soul

Congregational prayers for hope and patience

Romans 5:1-5 THE LIVING BIBLE

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 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.

Blessed Be Your Name

(This song affirms that, no matter what comes,
good or bad, we will bless the Lord.
Such trust honors him, bringing glory to his name).

OFFERING

Now And Forever

SERMON

The Hope We Have