

*Our Hope in Christ Alone...*  
Romans 8:24~25

*Our Hope is Christ alone...*

<sup>24</sup>For we are saved by hope:



Paul says...<sup>24</sup>*We are saved (from the WRATH of God) by the Hope that we have "IN CHRIST!"*

A *hope* that Paul describes as a "groaning"...in verse 23...

<sup>23</sup>*And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

That verse really puts in perspective the Christian life... It speaks of a person whose heart has been changed by Christ! I'm convinced that herein lies one of the most descriptive passages of a "True Believer" in Christ! It speaks of his LONGING to be set free from this body of Sin! Unbelievers have NO SUCH LONGING, no such perception... Unbelievers usually have a much different perspective; they usually see themselves as a pretty good person, based on their conformance to the LAW! But not the "True believer..." The true follower of Christ is the one who has come to the knowledge of his depravity through the Spirit of God, and has realized his utter hopelessness, and calls out to God in Christ Jesus to rescue him!

Paul says, even though we have Christ in our hearts...we are a long way from being what we should be and want to be! Paul says it's a struggle! He compares the struggle to "Childbirth!" He longs to be set free... He yearns to be delivered from this body of sin! It portrays an utter HATRED for SIN and a Love for God...which, is impossible to Love God and not Hate Sin...

(In vs. 26~27) Here in this section, Paul is writing to explain how Christ delivers us from our sin!

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: Likewise... In the *Same Way*...*Christ delivers us.* In order to understand how Christ saves us, we first must understand Paul's analogy in verses 24~25...

<sup>24</sup>For we are saved by hope: *but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why doth he yet hope for?* <sup>25</sup>*But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.*



Paul says...<sup>24</sup>*We are saved (from the WRATH of God) by the Hope that we have "IN CHRIST!"*

It is here, in these two verses, that Paul **defines** what "SAVING HOPE" or "SAVING FAITH" is... He does so to help us understand what it means to "live by faith..." which is extremely important to understand. Because, according to scripture, the "**Salvation of every individual on earth**" depends on whether or not they are "living by faith!" There's only ONE WAY to God...by faith in Christ.

Those who are "Right with God", those who will "Escape the Wrath of God" will be SAVED by their HOPE in Christ... *The Just shall live by Faith*...by HOPE...

**(Vs 24)** In clarifying what faith is...Paul begins by defining what "Saving Faith" is NOT!

<sup>24</sup>*we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen **is not hope:** for what a man sees, why doth he yet hope for?*

Paul begins by defining what faith is NOT... *hope that is seen **is not hope:***

Paul states that what "We SEE" with these eyes, is not of *faith...hope*

For the simple reason, you don't have to wonder if it's real or not... because you can SEE it!

...but hope that is seen **is not hope**: for what a man sees, why doth he yet hope for?

A man does not "Long for"... a man does not "Seek" something he already has...

Why would you "Long for" something, why would you "Seek" for something that you can see?

Listen, it is very important to understand the "**distinction**" that Paul is making here... It's vital that we "get the point" he is making...

**V:** He is speaking to the "Characteristics" of "Living Faith..."

And he says, that the very expression of "faith" is in the "Longing"... it is in the "Seeking" for something that you cannot SEE!


Expressions that Paul says... simply **do not exist** if you SEE the object!

...but hope that is seen **is not hope**: for what a man sees, why doth he yet hope for?

**T:** If you possess the object... If you SEE it... Hope does not exist! You have no reason to "long for" something you have, you have no reason to "seek" for something you possess...

For reasons I need not explain... for YOUR LONGINGS and YOUR DESIRES are fulfilled!

Listen, its important to "get" the point here...

 **"Saving Faith" is expressed by "our longing for", by "our seeking" by "the desire we have" for Christ and His Kingdom!**

**The "Spiritually Dead Man" has no such LONGING!**

He HAS what HE WANTS... His DESIRES and LONGINGS are found in this world, the here, the now... He "Lives for the SEEN!"

- His heart is FULFILLED in the physical, the material things of this world!

- Not in the UNSEEN! Not in Spiritual Things... Not in the World to come!

He has no real desire for God, for spiritual things, for serving Christ, for seeking to know and to do God's Will...

**WHY?** Because that's not what he longs for... The desires of his heart, his longings, what he seeks, is met by the things that HE SEES!

This world... The call of Christ is a call to repent and turn from this world! To live for Christ! To no longer "live for the SEEN"... but to "Live by Faith!" To live for the UNSEEN!"

To "live by faith..." means to live one's life, in the expectation of "an unseen reality"...

It means to long for something, to desire something, to **LIVE FOR SOMETHING** you can't see!

Many struggle with the issue of *works* verses *faith* salvation... Our message is, you are not saved by works, but by grace through faith! But as Paul is making crystal clear here... Genuine Saving Faith is not without WORKS!

**Illustration:** Kara's Dog... I've really learned a lot by watching Kara lately... She and Teri have made a covenant. Teri has promised her, that she can have a DOG. With one condition... **Provided** she keep her room clean from day to day until her birthday in December. So for four months, if she keeps her room clean, she can get a dog. Each week, she will receive \$6 for that week as an allowance. And at the end of the four months, she will have enough money to buy the dog she wants, and the things she needs to take care of it... And over the past few weeks, as I've watched this transaction taking place, I came to realize what a great explanation of what "*Faith*" really is! Here we see...

**A Promise made**... Something she did not yet possess... but trusted to be true!

**The Standard set**... There is a COST! (many say free...not so, in Kara's case it was keeping her room clean, in salvation its giving your life to Christ...)

**The Living out of Faith**... Kara's HOPE is, that by keeping her room clean, she will receive the promise! By keeping her room clean... Her day-to-day actions manifest, that she believes the PROMISE Teri gave to her! She lives each day in "*Expectation of an Unseen Reality*..."

In the words of James the apostle... **Faith without works is Dead!** And in Kara's case, if there are no works...there is NO DOG! And she believes that, and shows her belief by keeping her room clean.

She lives day by day, *in the expectation of "an unseen reality"*...

The Genuine *Saving Faith* Paul describes here, is not without WORKS!

As a matter of fact, the *Works* are what "Validates" it as genuine faith!

Remember what James said... *Faith without works is*... WHAT? .....**DEAD!**

<sup>14</sup>What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup>And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit?

<sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. <sup>18</sup>Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.

The Works of Faith are what "Validates" it as genuine faith!

<sup>19</sup>Thou believe that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Intellectual belief is not enough! The "**DEAMONS OF HELL** believe... but they don't submit to Him as Lord! The theme of James is "*be ye doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!*"

Listen to me... Its not enough to "KNOW..." that Christ is Lord... We must repent our ways, turn from this world, and submit our lives to HIM! As Paul states here in Romans 1:18... To know that Christ is Lord, to HOLD THAT TRUTH, yet not serve Him...invokes the wrath of God on you!

Which really brings the book of Romans all together... Paul is writing to the Jews, his fellow brethren... And he is warning them that by their living to the Law of Moses, that by living clean moral lives which comes as a result of a set of rules, the law... Those "**WORKS**", the works of the Law will not EXCUSE them from the wrath of God, which is to come!

For the simple reason, that the problem is not simply their outward behavior...but their heart!

Their ONLY HOPE is to BELIEVE in CHRIST... To turn from the righteousness of the Law, and yield their lives to Christ. To take up the Cross of Christ, and day by day, put to death the desires of the flesh. To day by day crucify the longings and desires of that rebellious nature inside them.

Though we are not saved by the “*Works of the Law*...” we are saved by Faith. And faith has works. It is the works described here by Paul, the fruits of the heart! A heart that now longs for Christ, a heart that now seeks His will, a heart that now loves the unseen things of God. A heart that has been made alive in Christ, a heart that has been turned upward, one born from above...

You want to know how that I KNOW that I am saved?

I know that I’m saved by the on the basis of what Paul says...

(8:15~16) <sup>15</sup>For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby **we cry, Abba, Father.** <sup>16</sup>The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

I know that I’m saved...not because of my goodness...not because of anything I’ve done!  
I know that I am saved...

**BECAUSE GOD CHANGED THE DESIRES OF MY HEART!**

I no longer love this world, I no longer desire the material things of this world, the things that the unsaved man loves! God has done what I myself nor the Law could ever do...change the desires and longings of my heart! I long for His things, I long for His will, I long for His kingdom, etc...



In no way will I ever boast of my goodness... When I came to Christ, it didn’t eradicate the SIN Nature in me, my flesh... Sometimes that things rears it’s ugly head. But now, the difference is, it grieves me to no end! I hate it!

As Paul says in verse 23...*I long to get rid of this THING!* I despise my flesh nature, it kills me when that thing flares up. As hard as I try, I constantly struggle with that thing! My heart LONGS to please Him, My heart SEEKS His Will in my life... The only difference now is, Christ is my Hope... I seek Him now instead of the Law for my Help. And Christ is working in me, changing my life...

Those who “*live by faith*”...live in HOPE of an “*Unseen Reality!*” We no longer live for HERE...this world...but we live for the “*World to Come!*” Like Abraham, we seek a city “*Not made with hands!*”

We “*live our lives*” in HOPE of an “*Unseen Reality!*” We believe that there is a Living God, that there is a Heaven, we believe there’s a place beyond this world, a place that God has prepared for those that love Him!

What this passage is saying, is that when Jesus comes back to Judge men... He will be able to do so on the basis of what he LIVED FOR! Here or there! For those who truly believe in Christ, they manifest their faith by living for the unseen world! God’s judgment won’t be whether or not I’ve lived to a set of rules, if I’ve lived to the letter of a law perfectly... But the question will be, was my heart given to Christ?

Was my life described as living for the seen...or living by faith, the unseen?

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