



Sermon Notes — Pastor Thomas A. Keys, SRMBC

Hope Is Here I: Hope In Christ (Jesus: Hope For Troubling Times) Romans 5:1 - 11 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

One of my favorite albums of all time is Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" It was released in 1971 and was a socially conscious recording that was really one song that covered topics like war, drug abuse, police brutality, poverty, the ecology, and racial and societal strife. The last song on the album was "make we want to holler" Here's a sample of the last verse:

*"Oh, make me wanna holler and throw up both my hands.
Yeah, it make me wanna holler and throw up both my hands.
Crime is (Woo!) increasing. Trigger happy policing.
Panic is spreading. God knows where we're heading..."*

It's a song about a man that has been treated so bad by life that he has given up all hope. And although written 50 years ago it is as if it was talking about life in our world today – there are so many problems that life seems to be hopeless – and it is!!! O but thanks be to God that the answer, the way find hope is the same in Marvin Gaye's day as it is in our day – Hope is only found in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ!!!

SERMON POINTS

We are starting our Hope is Here series, with putting our hope in Christ - looking Paul's letter to the Romans. As Paul gets to chapter 5, he wants to encourage his readers and us today that no matter how hopeless things look in the world around us, God has provided a sure and steadfast hope in these troubling times and that hope is found in Jesus Christ. Paul then proceeds to give a detailed description of the what the hope is, where it comes from and what it does in our lives. Can you imagine what these words must sounded like to the people in this church who have been going through some of the most troubling times?

I believe that people everywhere need a Word of hope today. So, what I want to do in this message is the show us that when we put our hope in the security, spirit and sacrifice of Jesus – we will have what we need to get us through the most troubling of times.

I. The Security Of Jesus Brings Us Into Hope (vv. 1 – 2)

Whenever you see the word "therefore" you need to figure out what the passage you are about to read are "there for" In ch. 4, Paul uses the example of Abraham—pointing out that he was saved by faith through grace and not by works. In other words, we are the sure hope of being secure, right with God and not by what we have done but by faith in what Jesus has done for us.

- ◆ **Acknowledgement By God:** I have an Amazon Prime account – and when I login, it says "Hello, Thomas", because it "knows" and because it recognizes my UserId and Password. In the same way, faith in the Name of Jesus enables me and every believer to be recognized as God's child.
- ◆ **Admittance By Grace:** Again with my Amazon Prime account, I have access to my movies, books, and thousands of songs.– all due my membership fee being paid in full. In a greater way Jesus Christ gives us access to all God has for us by Grace—His unmerited favor.
- ◆ **Anticipation of Glory:** When you have hope in Jesus, by faith, you can stand the hope of His Glory. When I mean by this is that every time I open my eyes, I have another opportunity to see God's glory in my life. Now, I know for sure that when this life is over, for me or for a loved one in Christ there is an eternal glory that awaits us

II. The Spirit Of Jesus Strengthens Our Hope (vv. 3 – 5)

What Paul is doing here after showing how secure we are in the Hope of Jesus he now goes shows us that – even though troubles in this life is inevitable/unavoidable we are given strength through the Spirit of Jesus that gives us unshakable hope despite anything that we may go through:

- ◆ **Strength To Go Through:** Beloved I wish that I could tell you that now that you are in Christ, that every thing will be smooth and all "hunky – dory". But the truth we are all going to have go through some trouble every now and then. But the Spirit of the Lord in you will give us the strength to go through

◆ **Strength To Grow Through:** When we face troubles, we have the hope of God using it to grow into the person He is calling us to be. We grow in perseverance, godly character, and not only to we have hope that God will bring us through we can share that hope with others. That's why we need to be in church – to encourage one another, strengthen one another with the hope that we have received by the Spirit of Jesus (Heb. 10:25).

◆ **Strength To “Glow” Through:** When I was a kid, we used go out and look for “lightning bugs” (or fireflies) because their tails would glow. As a matter of fact, the darker it got, the brighter their lights would be. O beloved, even when times get dark in our lives, the Spirit of God shines His love in our hearts so we don't get discouraged, filling us with the sure hope that nothing can separate us.

III. The Sacrifice Of Jesus Secures Our Hope (vv. 6 – 11)

One man in a church said to his friend, “I could give \$1,000.00 towards the building and not even feel it.” His friend replied, “Then give 2 or 3 thousand so you can feel it!” You a sacrifice ain't really a sacrifice unless you fell it. In other words, you will only sacrifice your best for something or someone who is worth it you.

◆ **Specific & Unconditional Sacrifice:** Paul lays out the foundation of our hope in the sacrifice of Jesus by showing us that it is specific. In other words, while His sacrifice is universal, it also is personal. I've said this many times before: *“Knowing that Jesus died for the world is history...but knowing that He died you/me – that's Salvation!”*

◆ **Spiritually & Infinitely Valuable Sacrifice:** I was watching “Motor Week” on PBS, and they were presenting a 2022 Maserati MC 12 – Price \$2,000,000. In order to purchase this car you would need to be able to spare no expense. In greater way God's great love for you moved Him save you not by gold, silver or precious stones, but buy the precious blood of Jesus!

◆ **Supernaturally Effectual Sacrifice:** There was a product that so effective in removing stains from your clothes called “Shout!” If you had any stain, you could just “Shout it out!” and it was very powerful. And in a greater way – even though our sins separated us from God, the blood of Jesus is so powerful it removes all of our guilty stains from all of sins (past, present and future).

As I close there's a story about a man who returned home from a trip to Los Angeles in early January, he discovered that everything in his apartment had been coated with aluminum foil. The walls, ceiling, cabinets, and everything in between shimmered after a prank orchestrated by Chris's longtime friend Luke Trerice who was staying in the apartment while Chris was gone. Luke covered everything in the apartment with about 4,000 square feet of foil, which cost about \$100. He enlisted several friends to complete the job. They carefully unrolled toilet paper, wrapped it in foil, and then rolled it back up again. Luke and his helpers covered Chris's book and compact disc collections but made sure each CD case and book would open and close normally. They even covered every piece of spare change with foil.

I suppose one moral to this story could be to exercise extreme caution before you invite someone to stay over at your home. But that's not the one I'm going for here.

Can you imagine how Chris must have felt the first time he walked into his home and saw the aluminum foil covering everything? Seize that thought for a moment. Think about the total amazement. Then think about your sin and the amazing fact that God has covered all your sin with His own blood, and in the process forgave you.

- ◆ Angels couldn't Cover our sins.
- ◆ Silver and Gold couldn't do it.
- ◆ The blood of lambs, bulls and goats couldn't do it.
- ◆ Good Works and keeping the Law couldn't do it
- ◆ Even your own blood couldn't do it

But Jesus came down from Heaven and walked this earth to be our perfect sacrifice. And this Precious Spotless Lamb of God – went to the Cross! He shed his blood –the blood that heals, forgives sets us free and gives eternal and steadfast hope!

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand!*

~E. Mote