

## **A Hope Filled New Year – Part One**

Romans 15:13

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Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I John 3:1-3 (HCSB)

“Look at how great a love the Father has given us, that we should be called God’s children. And we are! Dear friends, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.”

*Biblical hope is not a mere desire for something good to happen. It is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future. Biblical hope has moral certainty in it. When the word says, “Hope in God!” it does not mean, “Cross your fingers.” It means, to use the words of William Carey, “Expect great things from God.” – John Piper*

### **A Pathway Toward Overflowing Hope**

Romans 15:1-6 (HCSB)

Now we who are strong have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves. Each one of us must please his neighbor for his good, in order to build him up. For even the Messiah did not please Himself. On the contrary, as it is written, The insults of those who insult You have fallen on Me. For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope. Now may the God of endurance and encouragement grant you agreement with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with a united mind and voice. Therefore accept one another, just as the Messiah also accepted you, to the glory of God.

I. Deny Yourself and Live to serve Others

Romans 15:1-2 (HCSB)

We who are strong have an obligation to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not to please ourselves. Each one of us must please his neighbor for his good, in order to build him up.

II. Immerse Yourself in God’s Word at Every Opportunity

Romans 15:4 (HCSB)

For whatever was written before was written for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope.

*BILL ELLIFF – 22 reasons why I read the Bible everyday...*

- THE BIBLE IS HOW GOD SPEAKS TO ME

Psalm 119:102 I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me.

- THE BIBLE PUTS THINGS IN ORDER FOR ME

Psalm 119: 130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

- THE BIBLE HAS BEEN USED TO REVIVE ME, HUNDREDS OF TIMES

Psalm 119:107 I am exceedingly afflicted; revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.

- THE BIBLE IS MY GUIDE FOR EVERY DECISION

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

- THE BIBLE IS SWEET AND PRECIOUS TO ME

Psalm 19:10-11 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

### III. Pursue Unity within Your Church Family

Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### IV. Embrace God's Mission in the World as Your Mission

Romans 15:8 (HCSB)

Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises to the fathers, and so that Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy.

- Pray for missionaries by name at least one day per week.
- Get to know your international coworkers and neighbors.
- Plan to take a mission trip this year.
- Read the news through a Great Commission lens.
- Honestly consider the question, "Is God calling me to be a full-time missionary?"

Psalm 42:5 (NASB)

Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.