



BARNES *on the Bay*

March 21, 2022

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: Romans 15:13

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (NKJV).

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Most everyone has a measure of hope to some degree or other. Some seek a better life or job through hard work, while others gamble away what they have for the slim chance of a cash windfall. Even those who begin losing confidence in the future still wish for something to change. Of course, some people face the throes of depression: a state of having lost hope. However, that is not how it has to or needs to be!

In Romans 15:13, Paul uses the word "hope" twice to encourage believers not only about what lies ahead but what God provides at present for those who trust Him. Hope in this context means anticipation that involves pleasure, expectation, or confidence based on faith (Strong's Greek Concordance). It is a comfort not merely as a wish for something better; it is a pleasurable expectation of what is coming.

The Lord is the "God of hope" who is able, ready, and willing to provide "joy and peace" to those who believe and put trust in Him. And that confidence is empowered and applied through the Holy Spirit Himself! This truth is wonderfully expressed in the second verse of "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less."

"In every rough and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the vale.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

CHALLENGE THIS WEEK: Find Opportunities to Exercise Hope

Throughout the week, be conscious of exercising your faith with godly expectation rather than doubt. Replace despair with confidence in the Lord and the Spirit's empowerment of joy and peace. It is His promise and blessing!

PRAYER THOUGHT:

"A day without prayer is a day without blessing, and a life without prayer is a life without power." – Edwin Harvey

Beyond the Devotion

There are so many Scriptures offering hope to the believer. For each day this week, focus on a different passage, encouraging your heart and enlivening your faith in the truth it shares. Remember that "hope" is a confident faith that brings about an encouraging expectation of God's blessing and promise.

MONDAY: Psalm 119:114, "You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word."

TUESDAY: 1 John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

WEDNESDAY: Romans 5:5, "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

THURSDAY: Proverbs 23:18, "For surely there is a hereafter, And your hope will not be cut off."

FRIDAY: Jeremiah 17:7-8, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit."

SATURDAY: Titus 2:13, "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,"

SUNDAY: Colossians 1:27, "To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

HUMOR FOR THE WEEK: "Absent Minded"

An absent-minded professor was getting ready for his day of college teaching when his wife came and reminded him, "Honey, please remember that we are moving three blocks over today. If you come back to this house after work, it will be empty."

The professor went about his day, but as usual, he forgot all about it. When he arrived that afternoon and saw that the house was vacant, he recalled something about moving, but that was all. As he stood on the sidewalk thinking about it, he noticed a little girl playing in the front yard of the house.

He went over to her and said, "Little girl, I used to live at this house. Did you see a moving van here today?" "Yes, sir," she replied.

"Oh, good!" said the professor. "Could you tell me which direction it went?" The little girl looked up, took him by the hand, and said, "Sure, Daddy, I'll show you."