

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Romans // The Hope of The World
Pastor Marcus
August 28, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is a direction you often hear but have a hard time processing?

Reading: Romans 15:8-13

Outline:

- I. Jesus came to the Jews...
 - a. Jesus came to the Jews in order to prove God's promises to Israel true. Jesus is definitive proof that God is not a liar. Therefore, what we believe to be true about God we believe because of Jesus.
 - b. It is in Jesus that God has displayed his faithfulness and kept his promises. Therefore, it is in Jesus that we can be confident that God will not abandon his creation.
Q: With all of this, why do we still sometimes struggle to fully trust in God?
- II. For the sake of the world...
 - a. Jesus came to Jews, not for the exclusion of the rest of the world, but for its inclusion. God's work is not about building up fences, but moving toward the world.
 - b. The movement of the kingdom is to always move toward the world. God's movement toward the world is the reason any of us have hope in the first place.
Q: How can we learn to move our faith into the world in our daily lives? What does this look like?
- III. So that you would have hope.
 - a. The Gospel is not just about Jew and Gentile; it's about you. God's desire is that you would believe this Gospel so that you would have hope. Jesus is not just the world's hope, he's yours.
 - b. When our hope is placed in our ability to get things right and keep things together, it is always going to be accompanied by fear. Underneath all of these other hopes is an ech of a deeper longing that only Jesus can fulfill.
Q: Why do we try to keep things "right and together" rather than freely trusting Jesus?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What is a direction or statement that God tells you that you continue to struggle with?
- 2) How has God's word been "proven" in your life?
- 3) How can you better practice living in hope rather than in fear? How can scripture help with this?

Suggestions for further study:

- 2 Samuel 7:22-24 **Q: How can we find comfort in the unity created through God's actions?**
- Isaiah 45:22 **Q: How does this text confirm that God is for all humanity, regardless of nationality or background? What does this say about his love?**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, all of Your work in the world shows us that You are a God for us. You call us to you and make promises about our lives. We thank you for sending your son into the world, so that we may have hope again. We ask for your spirit to give us more faith to cling to the promises that you have made. Amen.