

Theme: Christians have a firm foundation for hope each day because of God's character, His sovereignty, and the return of Jesus to make all things new.

I. Intro - General Schwarzkopf

- A. He led the very successful invasion of Iraq in 1991
- B. The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war
- C. The same is true of a life of hope!

II. Our Hope In Daily Life

- A. We are to rejoice in hope each day
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24
 - 1. Each day of life is a day God has made!
 - 2. Each day of life is a gift God gives us!
 - 3. The proper response to this is joy!
 - 4. Whatever else happens this day, I know it is the day the Lord has made, it is a gift to me, and I can find joy in Him.
- B. Joy requires a foundation of hope
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13
 - 1. Joy comes from the God of hope
 - 2. Joy comes as the Spirit causes hope to overflow in my life
 - 3. For a Christian, a response of joy in my daily life is not about my personality but rather about a firm hope that is worked in my soul by the power of the Holy Spirit.

III. Hope In Every Day of Life

- A. Each day is a day made by God and is a cause for joy
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24
 - 1. THIS is the day the Lord has made; rejoice in IT
 - 2. When the day seems good, it is a day from God
 - 3. When the day seems bad - it is still a gift from God!
Whether the sun will shine
Whether the skies will rain
I know that You are good
And this is the day you made

Whether in life or death
Whether in joy or pain
I know this truth remains
That this is the day You made - This is the Day
 - a. When the sun shines - it is the day God has made
 - b. When the skies rain - it is the day God has made
 - c. In life & death, joy & pain it is the day God has made
 - 4. Christian hope rests not in circumstances but in Christ himself—a hope that sustains us through joy and sorrow, life and death, and into eternity.
- B. Finding hope when life is confusing
The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; ²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. Psalm 118:22-26

1. The context is clearly Messianic (vv22-23, 26)
2. No day was worse than when the builders rejected Christ and put Him to death!
3. What day could be as bad as when the Lord came to His city, Temple, and people, and they rejected Him?
4. Yet, this is the day the Lord has made, and even in this, He is working to accomplish His will!
5. Think of how confusing this all was for the disciples!
6. How can one have hope when the Messiah is rejected and crucified?
7. But on what was the darkest day in human history, God overruled and brought salvation!
8. When life is confusing and seems to contradict God's Word is when we need hope the most!
9. When our hopes seemed to be nailed to a cross and the skies are dark and the sun won't shine, we can have hope because God is still at work!

IV. Firm Foundations for Hope

- A. God's character is a foundation for hope in life
- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever...
- ²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 118:1, 29
1. Psalm 118 begins and ends with the same phrase!
 2. We give thanks to God, for He is good and His covenant love endures forever!

3. No matter how evil others are, we can have hope because God is good!
4. No matter how unfaithful others are, we can have hope because God is faithful (HESED)!
5. This is why the song This is the Day speaks of the goodness of God - a reflection of Psalm 118!
Whether the sun will shine
Whether the skies will rain
I know that You are good
And this is the day you made
6. No matter the circumstances, we can have hope because of the character of God!

- B. We can have hope because of the Sovereignty of God!
The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; ²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:22-24
1. As noted above, the people rejected Jesus, but God Sovereignly overruled!
 2. It would not be a cause for hope if God were good but unable to fulfill His will and save us!
 3. This is the Day also focuses on this!
Now I can walk in faith
You will protect my way
Your every work is good
And this is the day You made
I am a child of Yours
You are the One who saves
I am redeemed by love
And this is the day You made

4. The catechism makes this a huge point
 What is your only comfort in life and death?
 That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am
 not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior
 Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully
 satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all
 the power of the devil; and **so preserves me that
 without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair
 can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must
 work together for my salvation**, and therefore, by his
 Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and
 makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day
 forth, to live unto him.
5. God is Sovereign so all of our days are in His hands
6. God is Sovereign and works everything together for
 our ultimate good!
7. Nothing will befall you or me that will not ultimately
 work to our good because our Father loves us and
 will work everything to our good - even if we can not
 understand how that is true now.

C. We can have hope because Jesus will return!

while we wait for **the blessed hope — the glorious
 appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ**,
 Titus 2:13

1. The hope that sustains us in the ups and downs of
 this life and world is knowing that Jesus will return
 and make all things new!
2. The song ends with this source of hope as well!
 This is the day
 Come and sing your praise
 For the Lord now reigns
 On the throne of grace

**Soon is the day
 He will bring us home
 And we have this hope
 For we are His own**

3. The return of Christ and the coming of the new
 heavens and earth, when all will be set right, is a
 source of hope in this broken world - especially
 when things are not as they should be!
4. Christians have a firm foundation for hope each day
 because of God's character, His sovereignty, and
 the return of Jesus to make all things new!

V. Applying the Word

A. Nourishing my hope in God

1. Practice giving thanks to God

- a. This might seem unrelated to hope, but Psalm 118 is
 thanksgiving Psalm!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love
 endures forever... ²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD**, for
 he is good; his love endures forever. Psa 118:1, 29

1. This Psalm begins and ends with thanksgiving!

2. It is a Psalm of thanksgiving as a whole

- b. Thanksgiving in good times nurtures a habit of
 seeing God's hand at work around me.
- c. Neglecting to give God thanks for the good
 things He does for me corrodes my ability to
 see His work around me, in both good times
 and bad.
- d. Neglecting to give God thanks corrodes my
 hope so that when confusing and hard times
 come, I am more likely to give in to despair
 rather than hope in God.

2. Meditate on the character of God
 - a. The original temptation was built on casting doubt on God's character and motives! (see Genesis 3:5)
 - b. The confusing and hard times in life can be used by Satan to cast doubt on God and His character
 - c. To prepare for this, we need to regularly meditate, sing, and proclaim the character of God!
 - d. God is good; He is faithful; His covenant love endures forever!
3. Meditate on the sovereignty of God
 - a. When life is confusing or hard, it can seem that things are out of His control
 - b. Once again, we prepare for hard times before the trail begins - by meditating, singing, and proclaiming the sovereignty of God.
 - c. As Scripture says, not a hair can fall from my head apart from God's will, and He works EVERYTHING for His glory and my good!
4. Meditate on the return of Jesus and eternity!
 - a. This world and age are broken and in rebellion to God - but it will not always be this way!
 - b. Remember the Stockdale paradox - we must have hope that ULTIMATELY we will be home.
 - c. Like the POWs, we must never lose hope that Jesus will return, but we must also not be naive to think it will happen tomorrow or that everything will be wonderful between now and then.
 - d. The church has foolishly stopped preaching about death, the return of Christ, and eternity - but this undermines our hope!
 - e. To sustain hope, we need to meditate, sing, and talk about the return of Jesus and eternity!

5. Which of these do I need to practice the most?

B. The Table of Hope

1. At the Table, our hope is nourished for now and eternity
2. Here we remember the character and sovereignty of God, give thanks for what He has done, and look forward to the eternal feast with Him!
3. Come and have your hope in God nourished!
4. We will conclude with "This is the Day"

Christ Our Hope In Life

Psalm 118:24

July 27, 2025

Communion/This is the Day

Romans 15:13

Teaching keywords: Hope; catechism; gratitude and thanksgiving; sovereignty of God; second coming

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

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