

The Road to Hope

Romans 15:1-6

"Throughout the centuries, Christianity has been an intellectual faith and a heartfelt system. Christians do not 'check their minds at the door' and believe any random teaching that happens to sound good. We are a people who learn to discern good from evil and defend Christ as the hope of Glory. In a chaotic world of competing world views, we can do no less." Ed Hindson

- I. In order for us to understand how the please the Father like Jesus pleased him, we must allow him to teach us his truth. He has given us his infallible Word to instill in us a biblical mindset concerning all matters of life. If we allow all things to pass through the lens of Scripture, then we will find ourselves renewing the attitude of our minds in ways that please him as we face this evil world system and its many temptations. We will find ourselves willingly picking up our cross daily to follow him where ever he takes us.

Rom. 15:1-4a

Ps. 69:9

Matt. 7:24-27

Heb. 5:13-14 *Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish between good and evil.*

Psalms 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp to my feet, a light for my path.*

- II. In order for us to keep ourselves true to him no matter what life may throw at us, we must allow God's infallible Word to instill in us the steadfast endurance Jesus had when he faced the many trials he endured to secure our salvation. Jesus has given us an enduring faith; our responsibility is to protect what he's given us by staying Word focused in all we do.

Rom. 15:4

James 1:2-4

Luke 18:8

Matt. 24:10-13

Rev. 13:10

ὑπομονή hypomoné, hoop-om-on-ay' – *steadfastness, constancy, patiently, and steadfastly, a patient, steadfast waiting for, a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance, endurance. In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.*

Heb. 10:36-39 *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.*

- III. In order to stay encouraged and full of the only true hope we have in Jesus, we must allow the Holy Spirit to minister to us through the power of the Word. He uses the Word to come along side of us as our counselor to help us to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, as we come along side each other to "encourage one another daily" (Heb. 3:13) with the encouragement he's given us.

Rom. 15:4-6