

**The Main Point:** God is the God of hope. He first saves us, then accepts us. He shows us our value. He fills us with his love for us, which draws us near to him. He shows us good plans. Then he empowers us. We end up with joy, peace and abounding hope.

**Overview**

1-V1-2 We are exhorted to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the doubts and \_\_\_\_\_ of fellow Christians. Being considerate of them does not mean that we have to accept their position but that we accept them and understand their convictions, demonstrating that we are for them, that we want to \_\_\_\_\_ them and \_\_\_\_\_ them up in the Lord.

2-V3 Jesus is our example. He bears our \_\_\_\_\_ and troubles. This pleases us.

3-V4 The \_\_\_\_\_ give us \_\_\_\_\_ and encouragement.

4-V5 God gives us the ability, the \_\_\_\_\_ and encouragement to live in complete \_\_\_\_\_ with each other so that together we give \_\_\_\_\_ and glory to God.

5-V7 Father God has accepted us through his Beloved (Ephesians 1:6) \_\_\_\_\_. If we continue on in accepting people, we bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God. We demonstrate to the world how the Lord has shown great mercy by keeping his \_\_\_\_\_ to both Jews and Gentiles.

6-V13 "So I pray that God, who gives you \_\_\_\_\_, will keep you \_\_\_\_\_ and full of \_\_\_\_\_ as you believe in (trust in, yield to, gladly obey and follow his leading) Him. May you overflow with \_\_\_\_\_ through the power of the \_\_\_\_\_."

7-V14 Every Christian who walks in the truth and power of the Holy Spirit is able to \_\_\_\_\_ others how to live a successful and hope-filled life.

8-V16 Sometimes we lose sight of what the ultimate purpose of our life is. It is more than having health, wealth, and happiness this side of heaven. Paul says his highest hope and purpose in bringing Christ into our lives is that he might offer us up as an acceptable \_\_\_\_\_ to God, people he will look at and be pleased with.

9-V18-20 Paul lived for one thing above all to present the Good News of Christ to the world. He did this by the \_\_\_\_\_, by the way he \_\_\_\_\_ and by \_\_\_\_\_ done by the power of God's Spirit.

10-V23-24 Part of the Roman world, the area around the Mediterranean Sea, which Paul had not yet been to was \_\_\_\_\_. On his way back he planned to stop and visit the church to whom he is writing this letter, the church in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.

11-V25-29 Before he does that, he is talking about a money gift to the Christian community in \_\_\_\_\_. There was a great famine in Judea and great need among the brethren there. Paul and the other churches were giving encouragement and creating hope.

12-V30-32 Judea and Jerusalem, its capital city, was the hot bed of the enemies of God and Christ. They crucified the Lord, killed all the apostles except John, and Paul knows they want to kill him too. So he asks the Roman church to \_\_\_\_\_ for him that he will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ God. Secondly, he asks them to pray that Christians there will be willing to accept the \_\_\_\_\_ he is bringing.

13-V32 He closes with a benediction (a good speaking). "And now may God, who gives us his \_\_\_\_\_, be with you all. Amen."

**Word Study** HOPE • CONSIDERATE • ACCEPTED • SCRIPTURES  
INSULTS • POWER • TEACH

1. V1. \_\_\_\_\_ A mature Christian who wants people to learn about grace does not teach the law by insisting that people agree with him about wine, cigarettes, the King

James Bible, baptism by emersion, etc. The challenge is to teach people to depend on Christ and not on so-called right ways of doing things. In effect, putting the law on them.

This is accomplished best by acceptance and encouraging them to believe that Christ accepts them as they are and is working in their lives. "You have died with Christ and He has set you free from the evil powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, 'Don't handle! Don't eat! Don't touch!?' Such rules are mere human teachings... These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, humility, and severe bodily discipline. But they have no effect when it comes to conquering a person's evil thoughts and desires." Colossians 2:20-23

2. V4-5 \_\_\_\_\_ Living on this planet tends to wear people down and rob them of hope. Every child grows up with hope for his or her life. Hope gets crushed by society's pressure to make us cookie cutter copies of each other -- to conform -- to get along -- to make no waves. Hope gets crushed by significant people discouraging rather than encouraging us to "go for it." Jesus comes to give us a living hope of life forever. And He comes to give us a living hope of life that is abundant from the point of view of our dreams and hopes. John 10:10 "May you overflow with hope through the POWER of the Holy Spirit." V13

3. V3 \_\_\_\_\_ To poke fun at you. To put you down. To hurt your feelings. To make you feel worthless and take away your hope for a good life. Jesus put himself in our place. He entered into the world whose god tries to take away our fight. Jesus experienced insults as part of his giving his life for us. The message puts this passage... "Each of us needs to look after the good of people around us, asking ourselves, 'How can I help?' That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled."

4. V4-5 \_\_\_\_\_ The Scriptures are meant to encourage us, not oppress us. Jesus said, "My words are spirit and life." John 6:63 "The purpose of these proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline...to receive instruction in discipline, good conduct, and doing what is right, just, and fair. They will make the simpleminded clever." Proverbs 1:2-4 "Your law remains true today, for everything serves your plans. If your law hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery. I will never forget your commandments, for you have used them to restore my joy and health" Psalm 119:92-93

5. V7 \_\_\_\_\_ "We are accepted in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:6 We are accepted by Father God because Jesus bore our unacceptable things on the cross and they were crucified with Him. Acceptance is grace and mercy. It has nothing to do with character, past history, class, race, appearance, ability, human estimations of our worth. We all fall short of God's glorious standard (Romans 3:23) and the standards of our conscience. We are inclined to judge ourselves rather than accept God's acceptance. We don't need fellow Christians to judge us. We need them to accept us as we are. Our life together as a church community ideally accepts people where they are, sees the positive and blesses it. We say "Lord you change them, we will love them!"

6. V14 \_\_\_\_\_ Every person who has been joined to Christ is taught by the Holy Spirit the basic truths of salvation, repentance, godly living and is able to help others. One mentally handicapped Christian who couldn't read but was taught in his spirit said such things as: "You got to get right with God. God wants to bless. I've got a good heart."

7. V19 \_\_\_\_\_ "Not by power, nor might but by my Spirit says the Lord." Zechariah 4:6 Not by human power or effort but by the miracles people can see, by the touch of God in the human soul, by supernatural powers of speaking, knowing, believing, healing and loving operating in the lives of Christians. Billy Graham once said that he figured that 90% of the work of churches was done without any help from the Holy Spirit. We want to live naturally supernatural, living testimonies to the miracle working of God.

**What does this Scripture say to you?**

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