

Romans #069

“Responsible Hope”

Romans 5:4-5

Plato believed that no one can be virtuous without knowledge and human existence is determined not merely by intellectual understanding but by the ability to recall intellectual understanding when you need it.

In the *Philebus*, Plato relates recall of the past with hope or expectation of the future.

God decides the time, manner and place of our death and at the moment of our death forward, we remain in a place of no more sorrow, no more tears, no more pain and we will stay in the presence of God forever.

Merrill Unger defines hope in his Bible Dictionary (pg 498) as “God is the source of all expectation of the future.”

So, when we have sorrow, we should look to the future with all the fantastic things we have in Christ and this takes us into a realm of thinking in our consciousness that brings us back into the present with confidence and strength.

The mature believer dies with absolute confidence of receiving reward in eternity.

Over-protective parents have removed the sense of self-reliance in their children.

Our resources are provided for us spiritually in Christ.

Everyone wants quick answers and quick fixes but the Christian life is not a crash course where you become an expert on the Bible and understand God’s plan for your life in an instant.

We have developed an effeminate, spoiled, dependent culture and dependency is a slave mentality and slaves never appreciate freedom or use it for greatness.

The reason we rejoice in pressure and suffering is because we know it produces endurance.

It takes pressure, suffering, adversity, testing and difficult circumstances to use the integrity God in developing courage, honor and integrity.

The integrity of God is so great, perfect and stabilized in its immutability and so powerful from its omnipotence, that it is impossible to be disappointed in any relationship with God.

Therefore, when disappointment comes, it’s when we fail or our friends fail or our loved ones fail; but God cannot fail.

Either the believer adjusts to the justice of God or the justice of God will adjust to him; the difference between blessing and discipline is related to justice of God.

The justice of God adjusts to the believer in discipline when he fails to use the recovery technique and when he rejects or resists the teaching of the Word.

Capacity from God’s love poured out in our hearts is the place of spiritual growth where we become aware of the integrity of God and have an awe or respect for it as it turns to hope through occupation with Christ or awareness of the integrity of God through the Word.

The same Holy Spirit who converted the Word into wisdom in our souls, converts it into understanding of God’s love.

Hope is based on a past promise of a future reality.

Hope provides us with confidence in a future reality so certain that it strengthens our mentality to face unpleasant circumstances with joy in the difficulty.

Life begins when you take on the respons of being an adult.