ABOUNDING IN HOPE

Romans 15:9-13 (NASB) 9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written,

"THEREFORE 1 WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND 1 WILL SING TO YOUR NAME."

10 Again he says, "REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

Il And again, "PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES

PRAISE HIM. 12 Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND

HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE." 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I thought it fitting to share this exposition I found on our text. It reveals what we need to know in relation to ABOUNDING IN HOPE.

When Jesus came and died, Jesus Christ confirmed the promises that God made to Abraham and the Saints" of the Jewish nation (...). Some of these promises have already been fulfilled, but many waits the return of Jesus when He establishes His kingdom on earth.

Verse 13 — Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

NOW THE GOD OF HOPE. — God is called the God of hope, because He is the author of all the well-grounded hope of His people. All hope of which He is not the author, in the heart of men, is false and deceptive. The world in common may have hope, but it is false hope. All true hope with respect to the Divine grace is initiated in the heart by God Himself.

Not only is God the author of all true hope, but He can also create this hope out of the middle of hopelessness. The most desponding are often raised by Him to a good hope through grace; and the guiltiest are in a moment relieved and made to hope in His mercy. (I am a witness).

FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE — The inward joy and peace of the Believer are the gifts of God, and not the inherent influences of anything in the mind of man. All the promises and declarations of Scripture would fail in producing joy and peace in the mind of a sinner if it were not for the Spirit of God.

If the Believer enjoys joy and peace, he ought to ascribe it altogether to God. God gives and we are not to let anyone, or thing steal that which the Lord has given.

We ought to reflect that these blessings must be produced and continually maintained by Divine power, and not by any power of our own mind. It should also be kept in mind that these fruits of the Spirit, joy, and peace, Galatians 5:22, cannot be produced except in connection with the other fruits of the Spirit, and in the way of obedience, and in carefully abstaining from

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