

UNLIMITED

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NEWSLETTER

*Hope
in Christ is
a done deal*

Did you know that “hope” might not be what you think it is?

There are actually two completely different definitions of hope. It depends on whether or not you have entrusted your life to Jesus. We have to be careful not to apply worldly concepts to spiritual realities.

You see, the scientific materialistic worldview tells us that nothing exists apart from matter. It sees the world, and life itself, as being forged by random evolutionary processes, in which the random interactions of one kind of matter with another resulted in something new being made. For the scientific materialistic worldview, every aspect of life comes down to probabilities.

This is why, for those who think the way the world does, “hope” is merely a matter of probabilities. Hope is a gamble for which you don’t really know the odds.

Too many Christians look at their success in this life, and more importantly, salvation itself, in the same way.

If they pray enough, sing enough, and do enough, perhaps, just perhaps, it might be enough to earn God’s favour. But all our “enoughs” are never “enough” with God. He doesn’t accept our gambling with him.

*“...Christ in you,
the hope of glory.”
(Colossians 1:27)*

The Gospel is not a matter of probability. There’s no gambling with God. He “who does not lie” (Titus 1:2) deals only with certainties.

The Bible tells us that,

*...no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.
And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God
(2 Corinthians 1:20).*

Paul picks up this theme in Romans 5. *You will never be ashamed if you have put your hope in God (v 5).*

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GROW IN GRACE: The Book of Romans, Part 8

The whole book of Romans unfolds from its key verses: Romans 1:16 and 17.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.'

These verses teach that the Gospel is about righteousness from God. This righteousness from God is a gift to everyone who has faith in Christ.

Outline of Romans

Romans falls into three major divisions.

1. The first eight chapters dealing with the way out of sin.
2. Then the next three chapters ask, "Well, why didn't the most religious people in the world find that way?" That's chapters 9, 10 and 11.
3. Then, Romans says, "Here's how to live." That's chapter 12 onwards.

After each of these three divisions, there's a doxology (which is an expression of praise to God).

First Division (chapters 1-8) has four sections:

A section on condemnation

It's good to take the whole rainbow of truth. The rainbow has dark colours, as well as bright colours. You don't appreciate the bright colours without the dark colours. Did you ever see a good painting without shadows? I doubt it. But all shadows testify there's a light somewhere. Romans starts with the dark: condemnation.

A section on justification

This is the legal and verbal opposite of condemnation. It's a bright colour in contrast to the shadow.

A section on sanctification

This is also a bright colour. Sanctification is the fruit of justification. So you could call sanctification a reflected

brightness or colour. Sanctification is a derivative of justification.

God gives his gifts with both hands. He doesn't justify anyone he doesn't sanctify. You can't accept the death of Christ without accepting his risen life. The first look at the Cross is, "He died for me." The second look is, "I died with him." *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"*(Galatians 2:20, NIV).

A Section on glorification

This is a very important doctrine, but little thought about. There's going to be a time when I will lose these sinful drives that haunt and torment me every day of my life. It will only be when Jesus returns and we are transformed. Our sinful nature is destroyed then, and not until then.

Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality(1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

Sin remains in the Christian until glorification, although it should not reign. It's there, but it should not dominate. But it is there.

▼ DES FORD

To be continued: This series of articles on the Book of Romans was first published in 1995, and is being reproduced serially in Unlimited.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Solomon Islands: Good News Unlimited Online Bible Course.

Joyce from the Solomon Islands recently completed GNU's free online Bible Course, "Becoming a Follower of Jesus," which she says has "really built up my spiritual life. It has helped me to know and understand more about the nature and character of Jesus." She is now keen to encourage others to study this course, so they will receive similar blessings.

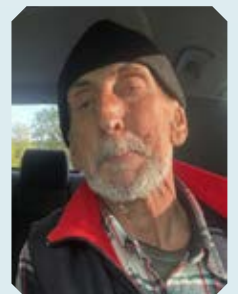


India: Martha's Good News

After years of struggle and misery, Martha found Jesus through the GNU Television Programme in India. Life struggling to make a living selling fish in the market was very hard for her - made more difficult because of her husband's drinking. But the gospel programmes spoke to her heart, and she began praying and learning more about the gospel, then was baptised. Over the past two years, her new-found faith has gradually changed her husband, who has now abandoned his drinking and is working. Martha rejoices in her new-found faith and hope, and in the joy she now has in her day-to-day life.

Ukrainian Evacuee Receives Addiction Help

Sixty-one year old Serhiy found himself homeless when his house was damaged during the bombing of his city. But, providentially, this sad event has handed him a blessing. He was brought to "There is a Way Out", a rehabilitation centre where he will not only receive treatment for his addiction, but will also have the opportunity to learn about the Gospel.



GNU ANNOUNCES NEW OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Good News Unlimited Radio

We've recently launched Good News Unlimited Radio! This digital radio station, which can be accessed from any device connected to the internet, will share GNU's best Gospel messages 24/7, everywhere in the world. It provides an exciting way for the Good News to reach more people than ever before.



Good News Unlimited Radio prominently features our founder, Dr Des Ford. We've scoured the archives for all the best audio of his preaching, and we've even taken the audio from his videos. Then we've packed all of it up in an attractive format, and Good News Unlimited Radio is the result.

We are intending for Good News Unlimited Radio to continue to grow as we add more content over time.

Good News Unlimited Radio can be accessed through the Good News Unlimited website (<https://goodnewsunlimited.com/>) or through the Good News Unlimited App (See opposite).

GNU App

Now you can take GNU with you everywhere!

Are you having a bad day and want a 60-second Gospel tonic? Are you sitting down to relax and want to fill your mind with blessings, as you focus on Christ? Then the GNU App is for you!

The GNU App makes much of GNU's content easily accessible to anyone with a smart phone. You can even listen to GNU radio on it.

For Android devices, the GNU App is available for free download from the Google Play store. For Apple devices, it's available for free download from the Apple store.

We're hoping that through these initiatives, we'll be able to reach entirely new audiences with the message of salvation through Jesus.

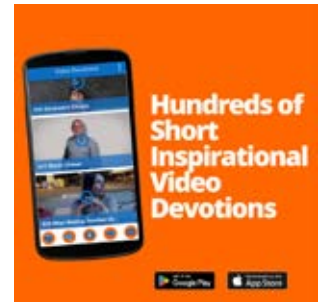


Encounters with Jesus

GNU has also recently launched a new series of radio programmes called "Encounters with Jesus." These are 12-minute episodes in which Eliezer recounts and explains the meaning behind the events in the life of Christ: the life-changing interview, the powerful miracles, his radical teachings, and more.

The series goes through the life of Christ, from his birth to his death, resurrection and ascension. Through it all, the Gospel is presented in a simple, engaging, and yet deeply spiritual way.

You may hear these programmes on your local Christian radio station, or you may listen to them on the GNU website.



my gift to help give everyone the certain hope of the Gospel

Eliezer, I want to give a gift so everyone can find hope for the future in Jesus Christ.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Giving people
a future and
a hope...

Jeremiah 29:11

Please follow the instructions on the reverse, cut along the perforation, and return this slip to GNU in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.



MY HOPE

From Eliezer TO YOU

Dear Friend

I want to share with you my hope for you, for GNU, and for the world.

My hope for you is not only that you will experience joy and peace, but also that you will never fail to observe the goodness of God in the times of hardship and suffering that will come. Most of all, my hope is that you will know that you have life through the Son, right now, today, and forever. I might not know you well here on this earth, but I plan to get to know you and appreciate you properly in eternity!

My hope for GNU is that the Lord Jesus will use us, together, to break into the lives of people everywhere in the world with the message of salvation through faith and by grace alone. I hope that one day you and I will stand in eternity and look back; and that when we do that, we will finally understand how astonishingly the Lord has blessed and magnified our humble work of sharing the Gospel.

My hope for the world is that none should perish. That is the heart of God, and I desperately want it to be my heart as well. I hope that one day, all who are willing to hear will have heard, and that Jesus will come again. Then all that was lost will be found. And as we wait for that day, my hope is for a kinder and more loving world.

I know that not all my hopes will be fulfilled, because some of them depend on our choices and the choices of other people. Yet I can conceive of no other way to live than to hope for all of these things.

What are we without hope, other than lost in a process of "unbeing"? Jesus has brought hope into this world through his mighty act of salvation at Calvary.

That's where I stand. I stand in hope.

Grace and Peace

HOPE IN CHRIST IS A DONE DEAL

When the apostle Paul tells us that "hope does not put us to shame," he also tells us why. He says,

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly (Romans 5:6).

We have peace with God because we have been made right with him through faith (Romans 5:1).

Hope in Christ is never a gamble. Hope in Christ is a done deal, sealed with his blood.

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ**



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