

The God of Hope

Romans 15.7-13

Hopelessness is a strategy of Satan to keep believers discouraged. He wants us to live in defeat, discouragement and despair. If he can isolate us and divide us, then he can defeat us. The church of Jesus Christ must respond to this attack of the enemy by rejecting the unscriptural divisions over pettiness and prejudice that plague us. Our text today gives us a solution to this problem, and a ground of hope for the future.

Accept One Another

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
Romans 15.7

Christ Has Become a Servant

*“For I tell you that **Christ has become a servant** of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, to **confirm the promises made to the patriarchs** so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:*

‘Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.’ Psalm 18.49

Again, it says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.’ Deuteronomy 32.43

And again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples.’ Psalm 117.1

And again, Isaiah says,

‘The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.’ Isaiah 11.10; Romans 15.8-12

In verses 9 through 12, we see Scriptures, from the three areas of the Hebrew Scriptures, which indicate that God is a God of the Gentiles as well as a God of the Jews. Christ was the fulfillment of God’s plan for both the Jews and the Gentiles. He came for both; he was a servant to both.

The Jewish Bible – **Tanakh** – was divided into three sections:

Torah (The Law) – Genesis through Deuteronomy

Nevi’im (The Prophets) – Joshua through Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Twelve Minor Prophets

Kethuvim (The Writings) - Psalms, Proverbs, Job, The Scrolls (The Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther), Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles

*“He [Jesus] said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that **the prophets** have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’ And beginning with **Moses** and **all the Prophets**, he explained to them what was said in all **the Scriptures** concerning himself.*

*He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the **Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**”* Luke 24.25-27, 44

May the God of Hope Fill You

*“May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* Romans 15.13