

A Place of Hope

Romans 15:1-7

Some companies have a slogan or motto that identifies them with their product. The idea behind a company motto is when you hear the motto you will think about their product:

- “Good to the last drop.”— Maxwell House coffee.
- “Um, Um Good.” — Campbell soup.
- “Don’t leave home without it.” — American Express.
- “Your in Good hands.”— Allstate.
- “Zoom-Zoom.”—Mazda.
- “Just Do It.”— Nike.

I recently heard about one church whose motto is “*The House of Hope.*” This motto defines and drives every ministry of that church. I think it is a good motto for a church.

- God is “*the God of hope*” (v. 13).
- The Scriptures instill hope in us (v. 4).
- Colossians 1:23 refers to “*the hope of the gospel.*”
- Jesus is our “*the hope of glory*” (Col. 1:27). Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no hope.
- Christ’s 2nd coming is called “*that blessed hope*” (Tit. 2:13).

➡ Hope goes with the church like Payton Manning goes with football...
Labron James goes with basketball... Bill Gates goes with Microsoft...
and fried chicken goes with Baptist preachers.

The church should be a beacon of hope in a hopeless world. We are the only organization that exists that can connect people to the only source of hope on earth—God! If the church is not a “place of hope,” where, pray tell, can people find hope? They won't find any hope in the daily newspaper or the evening news.

I pray Bible Baptist Church might be a place people would identify as a place where they can find hope.

In Romans 15:1-7 are three reasons why BBC should be a place of hope.

I. At BBC there is the HELP of the strong (vs. 1-3).

A. **The encouragement of SUPPORT** (vs. 1-2).

➡ Two important words: “*ought*” and “*bear*.”

1. “*Ought*” — The etymology of this word suggests one **owing a debt**; or a sense of **dut** and **obligation**.

STRENGTH = OBLIGATION — There is much talk about bullying today—The strong pushing around the weak. However, in the church the strong OUGHT to help his weaker brother.

2. “*Bear*” comes from the Greek word “*bastazo*” meaning to pick up or carry a heavy burden (see Mark 14:13).
3. These two words form a picture of someone who is spiritually strong picking up and carrying the burdens of someone who is spiritually weak. That is what we are suppose to do. BBC should be a place where someone can come and find help with their heavy burdens.
4. v. 2— Christians are to bear, not merely to forbear—The strong are not to simply tolerate the weak, but actively engage in building up (edify) his weaker brother!
 - Is there anyone here today that has been carrying a heavy burden this week? A family burden? An emotional burden. A relational burden? A burden of ill-health?

A little girl was carrying a baby, and someone asked, “Isn’t he heavy?” “No,” the girl answered, “He’s my brother.”

5. BBC should be a place where **weakness** is met with strength... where **doubt** is dispelled with faith... where **rejection** is replaced with acceptance... where **despair** is diffused with hope.

➡ **Attention deprivation**—The feeling no one cares. David during a time of extreme loneliness cried out in Psalms 142:4— “*I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.*”

As long as there is a church at 6703 Bethel Road in Port Orchard, WA, no one in our city should feel that way!

B. The exhortation to SELF-DENIAL (v. 2).

➡ Don't live for yourself—Live for others.

- Paul wrote, "*Let no man seek his own but every man another's wealth*" (1 Cor. 10:24). "*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*" (Gal. 6:2).

C. The example of the SAVIOR (vs. 3, 5, 7).

1. "*For even Christ pleased not himself!*" Since Christ did not live to please Himself, **who was He seeking to please?** Jesus said, "*He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him*" (John 8:29 cf. 6:38).

v. 3— "*Even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written [in Ps. 69:9], The reproaches of them that reproached thee [God the Father] fell on me [Jesus Christ].*" The reproaches directed at God fell on Christ, because Christ represented God and was doing what pleased God. Now we go without the camp and bear His reproach as we live to please Him (Heb. 13:13).

2. At BBC, we lift up Christ as the perfect role model for pleasing God and unselfish living. Jesus had no life of His own. His life was spent living for OTHERS.

Lord, help me live from day to day
 In such a self-forgetful way,
 That even when I kneel to pray,
 May my prayer be for others.
 Others, Lord, Yes others—May this my motto be.
 Help me live for others—That I may be like Thee!

II. At BBC there is the HOPE of the Scriptures (v. 4).

➡ "*For whatsoever things were written aforetime.*" He just quoted Psalms 69:9 — in the O.T.

A. Why did God give us the Bible? It was "*written FOR OUR LEARNING.*"

1. So we could learn of Christ (John 5:39).

2. To make us wise unto salvation (2 Tim. 3:15).
 3. To warn us of things to avoid. 1 Corinthians 10:1—*“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition...”*
 4. That we might have **patience... comfort... and hope.**
 - As we read of God’s faithfulness to the O.T. saints, it imparts faith and hope that God is still faithful to us.
 - Read Job for patience. Read the Psalms for comfort. Read the lives of Joseph, Moses, and David for hope when things seem hopeless.
 - As we read the prophecies of the Bible we are encouraged to look *“for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ!”*
- B. If BBC is going to be a place of hope, we must lift up the Scriptures!
1. It gives us comfort when we are hurting.
 2. It gives us strength when we are weak.
 3. It gives us joy when we are sad.
 4. It gives us rest when we are weary.
 5. It gives us courage when we are afraid.
 6. It gives us faith when we question why.
 7. It gives us hope when our situation appears hopeless.

III. At BBC there is the **HARMONY of the saints** (vs. 5-7).

- A. **The PLEASURE of harmon** — I love four part harmony. No one likes a “sour note.” For there to be harmony, there must be unity. Discord in the church is a “sour note.”
1. David said in Psalm 133:1, *“How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”*
 2. The world even recognizes this. Jesus said, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”* (John 13:35).

3. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, *“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”* (Philippians 2:2).

B. The PRACTICE of harmon .

1. Our best ministry is not from the pulpit to the pew. Our most effective ministry is from pew to pew—People ministering to people—Caring for one another—Loving one another—Praying for one another.
2. This can only occur when our focus is on others and not ourselves.

C. The PRAYER for harmon (vs. 5-6).

1. God is addressed as *“the God of patience and consolation.”* Harmony requires us to be patient and compassionate towards one another *“ACCORDING TO CHRIST JESUS.”*
2. This is a prayer that we should pray regularly here at BBC.

D. The PURPOSE of harmon — Our purpose is the glory of God (vs. 6-7). No greater purpose than to glorify God. The glory of God is what unites us and gives us fulfillment in life.

1. People live a meaningfully existence because they have no fulfilling purpose. We are here to connect people to the greatest purpose a person could live for.
2. Do you know of someone who is living without a fulfilling purpose? Their life is meaningless. It’s just the same routine day-in-day-out.”

Charles Shultz once did a Peanuts cartoon where Lucy is philosophizing and Charlie is listening. She says, “Charlie Brown. Life is like a deck chair. Some people open it and position it on the deck to see where they’ve been. Other’s place it facing forward to see where they’re going.” Charlie says, “Well, I can’t even get mine open!”

That's the way it is with many people concerning life. They can't even get it open. BBC is here to help people get the chair open and see what life is really all about.

SUMMATION (v. 7): Let me remind you the address of our church. It is not 666 Judgment Avenue. No, it is 6703 Bethel (House of God) Road. The House of God where someone can come and be accepted just as Jesus accepted us— **Jo full ... With open arms... without passing judgment...**

1. A place where they can find HELP from those who are strong.
2. A place where they can find HOPE from the Scriptures.
3. A place where they can find HARMONY with the saints and find purpose in life.

People need to be accepted... loved... and forgiven. May they find all these things here at BBC— A place of hope.

➡ Comments are welcomed. Please [CLICK HERE](#).