



**The Bible Gives us Hope
(Sermon)**

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Song Service

No. 206 “Face to Face” *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

No. 214 “We Have This Hope” *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

Key Text: Romans 15:4

Present as a telecast conversation between two speakers who alternate presenting the subtitled sections.

Let’s read Romans 15:4: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

World War II pilot Eddie Rickenbacker and three friends survived in a raft at sea for 21 days and nights without food or fresh water after their plane crashed in the ocean. Miracles preserved them. When they were faint from thirst, a rain squall blew up, providing fresh water. And when they were hungry, seagulls flew close enough so that they could catch them. After their rescue, they were individually asked, “To whom do you attribute your survival?” All of them answered, “One of us brought a New Testament Bible that we read every day. The Bible gave us hope to live.”

Not only was Eddie Rickenbacker given hope to live—he was living with the hope of being saved. “Salvation” and “rescue” can be used interchangeably.

How Important is Hope?

“Those who require heart surgery need hope,” Dr. McNair Wilson, the famous cardiologist, remarked in his autobiography, *Doctor’s Progress*: “Hope is the medicine I use more than any other—hope can cure nearly anything.” Yes, hope is vitally important in our human life. Faith in God offers hope. The Bible also offers hope through its hundreds of

promises. Just one Bible text will suffice: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4, NIV).

Hope of Salvation

The Bible emphasizes what we inherently know—we are all sinners (Rom. 3:20), and the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Paul expressed our human struggle for salvation when he said: “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” (Rom. 7:24, NIV). He answered his own question in the next verse: “Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord (verse 25). He also tells us that “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23, NIV). Through Jesus we can experience hope! “In this hope we were saved” (Rom. 8:24, NIV).

Hope of Everlasting Life

David exclaimed: “May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word” (Ps. 119:74, NIV). He also said: “You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word” (verse 114). Both texts show the power of the Word of God to produce hope in our life that includes the promise of everlasting life.

Everlasting life actually begins in this world when we know God (John 17:3), and it extends forever! Jesus Himself promised: “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1-3).

Hope for the Future

People do not know what will happen in the future, but we have learned that God promises us hope. Even in the midst of daily suffering, sickness, agony, starvation, and sorrow, we can have hope. Such hope helps us not to worry about tomorrow because we know who is in control. God provides for our daily needs. He protects us from harm and danger. And He assures us of everlasting life in the world made new, where there will be no more sickness, separation, or death.

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