

GOD OF HOPE

ROMANS 15:4-13

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Those with the heavy hand of “self righteous knowledge” and those with “stuck theology” about controversial Scriptures can let their contentious issues melt away under their contemplation of their hope in Jesus Christ. “... it (hope) speaks of something that is certain, but not yet realized.” John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible, footnote for Romans 5:2.

GIVES ONE MIND AND ONE VOICE. If you try to make the interpretation of every Scripture fit into your narrow doctrinal position, you may miss the encouragement and endurance taught in all the Scriptures. See Christ in your favorite verses. But search Him out in the whole Bible, and you will find that God gives encouragement and endurance for all to reach one mind and one voice. (**Romans 15:4-6, fn 15:4, II Timothy 3:14-17, fn 3:15, fn 3:16, 17, fn 3:17, II Peter 1:20, 21, fn 1:20, 21, Deuteronomy 6:1-9, fn 6:4-9, fn 6:7**) *How is it possible for you to have one voice and one mind in your group?*

ACCEPTS YOU on the same basis that Christ accepts every believer in Him. You bring praise to Jesus by also accepting those whom He has accepted. (**Romans 15:7-12, fn 15:5-7, Romans 14:1, fn 14:1[2nd], Romans 14:4, Hebrews 11:6, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13**) *Why is it important to Jesus that you accept fellow believers that are different from you?*

FILLS YOU WITH JOY AND PEACE. In your quiet time with the Lord and in time spent with your group, the presence of the Holy Spirit will become evident as you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (**Romans 15:13, Romans 14:17, Ephesians 1:13, 14, fn 1:13, 14, Ephesians 5:18, II Corinthians 5:5, fn 5:5, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20**) *How do you recognize that you, by faith, are filled with the Holy Spirit?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.