

RUTH 2:14-23
HOPE IN THE LORD!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Ruth chapter 2, as we continue our in-depth study through the book of Ruth.

As we have seen so far, there was a family that lived in Bethlehem who departed for Moab due to a famine in the land. They thought that the world would have more for them than the Lord had for them in the House of Bread or Bethlehem.

And this was to be a short stay in Moab, just until the famine was over and it wasn't a short time. Their time there was ten years, and it was filled with tragedy!

First, we see that the husband, Elimelech died and he left his wife alone, Naomi was left with her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion.

And while in Moab Naomi's two sons married Moabite women, something that the Lord had told them in His Word not to do, but they are in the world and what else could they do?

Then, after some time, Naomi's two sons died leaving Naomi and her two daughters' in law alone. Their names were Orpah and Ruth.

As those ten years down in Moab came to an end, Naomi gets word that the Lord was blessing His people back in Bethlehem, there was bread in the land and thus, Naomi is going to head back.

What is interesting to me is that she is going back to Bethlehem not because the Lord wanted her there, but because there was food once again there.

Not only that, but she tells Orpah and Ruth to remain in Moab and get married again, not to go with her to the House of Bread but to stay in Moab, stay in the washpot or the world!

And Orpah kissed Naomi and went back to Moab, to her people.

But Ruth refused even though Naomi was doing everything she could to persuade her to go back to Moab.

But Ruth was going to go to the House of Bread, to Bethlehem even though she knew no one back there, she had no family and no friends except for Naomi!

And yet, listen to what she said to Naomi,

“But Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.’

When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.” Ruth 1:16-18.

Ruth came to saving faith and now she wanted to go to the House of Bread, to Bethlehem where the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were. She did not want to remain in the world, but to be with God’s people and learn more about God!

Now, as they head to Bethlehem and come into the city, the people recognize Naomi, but she does not look like she did when they left some ten years earlier. She was pleasant when she left, that is what the name Naomi means, and now she tells the women of Bethlehem not to call her pleasant but to call her Mara or bitter.

Time away from God had made Naomi a bitter person but the Lord is going to work on her heart just as the Lord is going to work in the life of Ruth!

In Bethlehem we see that Naomi had a kinsman of her husband’s family named Boaz. And Ruth goes to glean some grain in his fields and Ruth catches the eye of Boaz.

And we saw last time how Boaz was watching out for Ruth, protecting her just like the Lord watches over us and protects us!

Now keep in mind that the picture we see being painted for us here. Boaz is a type or picture of Jesus Christ. And Ruth is a picture or a type of the Church. Keep in mind that Ruth was a Gentile, a Moabite, and just as God has opened the door to the Jews for Salvation through Jesus, He has opened the door for us Gentiles as well!

In our study this morning the focus will be – ***HOPE IN THE LORD!***

And I believe that this is fitting for us today as we have lost a lot of hope over the last year or so. People put their hope in this and that and when it fails, they are left with nothing. Let me show you what I mean.

Let me share this article from the New York Times that is from January 18, 2020 and the title of this article is - ***How Did Americans Lose Faith in Everything?***

And I want you to see what they think the problem is, why we have lost hope and then, in our study this morning, we will see the answer to this problem of losing hope.

We are told,

Americans are living through a social crisis. We can see that in everything from vicious partisan polarization to rampant culture-war resentments to the isolation, alienation and despair that have sent suicide rates climbing and driven an epidemic of opioid abuse. These dysfunctions appear to have common roots, but one symptom of the crisis is that we can't quite seem to get a handle on just where those roots lie.

When we think about our problems, we tend to imagine our society as a vast open space filled with individuals who are having trouble linking hands. And so we talk about breaking down walls, building bridges, leveling playing fields or casting unifying narratives.

But what we are missing is not simply greater connectedness but a structure of social life: a way to give shape, purpose, concrete meaning and identity to the things we do together. If American life is a big open space, it is not a space filled with individuals. It is a space filled with these structures of social life — with *institutions*. And if we are too often failing to foster belonging, legitimacy and trust, what we are confronting is a failure of institutions.

This social crisis has followed upon a collapse of our confidence in institutions - public, private, civic and political. But we have not given enough thought to just what that loss of confidence entails and why it's happening. . . .

We lose faith in an institution when we no longer believe that it plays this ethical or formative role of teaching the people within it to be trustworthy. This can happen through simple corruption, when an institution's attempts to be formative fail to overcome the vices of the people within it, and it instead masks their treachery - as when a bank cheats its customers, or a member of the clergy abuses a child.

That kind of gross abuse of power obviously undermines public trust in institutions. It is common in our time as in every time. But for that very reason, it doesn't really explain the exceptional collapse of trust in American institutions in recent decades. . . .

The pattern is rampant in the professional world. Check in on Twitter right now, and you'll find countless journalists, for instance, leveraging the hard-earned reputations of the institutions they work for to build their personal brands outside of those institutions' structures of editing and verification - leaving the public unsure of just why professional reporters should be trusted. The same too often happens in the sciences, in law and in other professions meant to offer expertise.

Or consider the academy, which is valued for its emphasis on the pursuit of truth through learning and teaching but which now too often serves as a stage for political morality plays enacted precisely by abjuring [rejecting] both. Look at many prominent establishments of American religion and you'll find institutions intended to change hearts and save souls frequently used instead as yet more stages for livid political theater - not so much forming those within as giving them an outlet.

Artists and athletes often behave this way too, using reputations earned within institutional frameworks as platforms for building a profile outside them. When he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the former Chicago Cubs second baseman Ryne Sandberg implored fellow players to remember "that learning how to bunt and hit-and-run and turning two is more important than knowing where to find the little red light on the dugout camera." When vital institutions across American life fail to produce people who remember that, they become much harder to trust. . . .

As a practical matter, this can mean forcing ourselves, in little moments of decision, to ask the great unasked question of our time: "Given my role here, how should I behave?" That's what people who take an institution they're involved with seriously would ask. "As a president or a member of Congress, a teacher or a scientist, a lawyer or a doctor, a pastor or a member, a parent or a neighbor, what should I do here?"

The people you most respect these days probably seem to ask that kind of question before they make important judgments. And the people who drive you crazy, who you think are part of the problem, are likely those who clearly fail to ask it when they should.

Asking such questions of ourselves would be a first step toward grasping our responsibilities, recovering the great diversity of interlocking purposes that our institutions ought to serve, and constraining elites and people in power so that the larger society can better trust them. It would not be a substitute for institutional reforms but a prerequisite for them.

And asking such questions is one thing we all can do to take on the complicated social crisis we are living through and begin to rebuild the bonds of trust essential for a free society.

- <http://nyti.ms/2VjLiZc>

The loss of hope is not because of what we have done or did not do. Our loss of hope is because we have placed our hope in the wrong things.

I do realize that the New York Times is a liberal newspaper, but it is funny how they try to defend the journalist whose writings have been put down because they put forth their view and not the news. That is a hard one to try and defend, it is what is done. So we lose hope in the news media!

I don't even want to talk about losing hope with our politicians, but I think I can safely say it is hard to trust what they are doing, and again we lose hope.

And the answer is not for us to be better at what we are doing, because what we are doing can be wrong.

The answer to our hopelessness is to put our trust, our focus on the Lord because that is where our hope will be found! He will never let us down, **NEVER!** And it is the title of our message – ***HOPE IN THE LORD!***

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into three main points and they are,

SATISFACTION IN THE LORD – RUTH 2:14

PROVISION OF THE LORD – RUTH 2:15-17

OUR HOPE IN THE LORD – RUTH 2:18-23

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Ruth chapter 2, starting in verse 14 and let's see what the Lord has for us this morning as we study His Word and look at the topic of
– ***HOPE IN THE LORD!***

RUTH 2

VERSE 14

As we read through this verse it is easy to miss what is going on here.

Boaz has prepared a meal for his workers, these reapers and yet, here is Ruth, not one of his workers but someone who is just gleaning in his fields after the reapers have come through to gather grain for Naomi and her to eat.

And yet we see Boaz invite her to this meal, to partake of this feast you might say.

What we see here is another beautiful picture the Lord is painting for us.

Boaz, the lord of the harvest has Ruth share with him the bread and vinegar or wine, which are symbolic of communion.

And as she partakes of this meal, she is satisfied! That is what the text tells us, “**... and she ate and was satisfied . . .**”

Not only that, but she is willing to share with others what the lord of the harvest has shared with her. Again, that is what the text tells us, “**. . . and kept some back.**”

Who did she keep some back for?

She kept some back for Naomi, she was going to share with Naomi what the lord of the harvest, Boaz, shared with her!

She was satisfied!

Now, did she deserve this kind of treatment from Boaz?

Absolutely not!

Then why did Boaz show her this kindness?

It was because he was gracious to her. He did not have to treat her this way, seat her at his table, but out of his grace he extended this free gift to her and all she had to do was receive it by faith or enter in by faith.

That is what the Lord has done for us.

We are saved by grace and we in no way deserve it. It is not like, “***Hey, I am better than that person over there and that is why I am saved, and they are not!***”

No, I am a sinner like everyone else and I don't deserve salvation, but God freely gives it to me by His grace. You see, if it was based on what I have done, then I could and I probably would boast about it. But I can't.

All I can boast in is Jesus Christ and the grace that He has extended to me.

And in the Lord, we find true ***SATISFACTION IN THE LORD!***

I think for us, we tend to find our satisfaction in other things and when they don't happen, we are disappointed and sometimes we even lose hope.

I remember on one of the cruises my wife and I were on.

It was dinner time, and you would get to pick from several different courses what you wanted, and I did like to try different things.

So, I saw pan-seared tuna and it sounded really good. So I ordered it.

And when the waiter brought it to me, I looked at Julie and I said, "***Julie, they didn't cook it!***" Yes, it was basically raw!

And you know what she said to me, "***That is what pan-seared means!***"

I had such high expectations, such high hopes you might say and then, basically raw tuna and I was disappointed, I was not satisfied in what they brought me, and I gave it to Julie who loved it!

And again, that happens a lot in our lives, not raw tuna but the disappointments in what we think will satisfy us and when it doesn't, it is hard.

Our satisfaction needs to be in the Lord because He will give to us exactly what we need to live out our lives. Not necessarily what we want, but exactly what we need!

For Ruth, she needed food and Boaz provided a meal for her, plus, she was going to share some with Naomi!

Listen to what Spurgeon has to say regarding our satisfaction in Jesus. He wrote, “‘She did eat, and was satisfied.’ Your head shall be satisfied with the precious truth which Christ reveals; your heart shall be content with Jesus, as the altogether lovely object of affection; your hope shall be satisfied, for whom have you in heaven but Christ? Your desire shall be satiated, for what can even the hunger of your desire wish for more than ‘to know Christ, and to be found in him.’ You shall find Jesus fill your conscience, till it is at perfect peace; he shall fill your judgment, till you know the certainty of his teachings; he shall fill your memory with recollections of what he did, and fill your imagination with the prospects of what he is yet to do. You shall be ‘satisfied.’”

May we be satisfied in Jesus!

Let me share with you a few Scriptures to show you how our satisfaction needs to be in the Lord, and I will then show you what happens when we are not satisfied in the Lord, but we look to the world, we want what we want and what it does for us.

David said in Psalm 16:11, “**You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**”

Let’s face it, most people today want to be happy. Then what is the problem?

The problem with that is that happiness is based upon an outward situation and that situation can change from good to bad in a matter of seconds.

On the other hand, joy is an inward reality that is based in Christ and that can never change. Thus, our fullness of joy is found in the Lord.

Also, David speaks of this “**path of life.**” What is this path of life that David is speaking of because out of this we find this fullness of joy and we find pleasures forevermore?

It is not work's that we walk in but a person we trust in - Jesus is the path to eternal life where true joy is found in. Spend time in His presence and you will be full of joy in your heart that will overflow in your life.

Make no mistake about it, true satisfaction is found in Jesus. I am not saying that we are not joyful about other things, but in Jesus there never is disappointment, a loss of hope, unless we don't surrender to Him and we are basing our satisfaction on what we want instead of what He wants.

As David, said, **“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”** Psalm 16:11.

We are also told in Psalm 17:15, **“As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”**

In this Psalm we see that David is contrasting himself with the wicked who sought after material possessions, and David sought the Lord.

He was looking forward to the day when he would awake in His likeness, as John said in I John 3:2-3, where we read, **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”**

One writer summed this up for us like this. He wrote,

A little boy struggled to uproot a huge weed. Finally, with a mighty tug, he was victorious.

“That was a mighty big tug,” said a man, observing the scene.

“Yeah,” said the little boy. “It’s pretty tough when the whole world is pulling against you.”

That’s what happens with us. There’s a whole world pulling against us. The world system pulls against us. The enemy goes about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. Our sin nature continually plagues us. When will we be free of this? When will we be truly satisfied? Not until we awake in the likeness of the Lord. . . .

“When I see You, I’ll be satisfied,” David says. “In the meantime, Lord, protect me. Keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me under the shadow of Your wings. See me through.”

- Jon Courson, Application Commentary, Volume 2, p. 19

And that brings us to the question we need to ask ourselves, “*What are you satisfied in?*”

That is an important question because depending on how you answer it, you will either find yourself at peace in the Lord or anxious in this world.

I like the way that Meyer put it as he wrote, “*The mind will be satisfied with his truth, the heart with his love, the will with his authority. We shall need nothing else.*”

May that be our hearts desire, to be satisfied in the Lord knowing one day, after these bodies of flesh go back to the dust of the earth, we will awake in His presence and see Him face to face!

What are we hungry for? What is the passion of our lives?

In Psalm 107:9 we are told, “**For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness.**”

That is what God wants to do for us, bring satisfaction to our lives and what a joy, what comfort that brings to us, especially when we are going through difficult times.

But the problem many times is we are not satisfied with what God has given to us. We want what we want, and we want it now. And as much as we think we know better than God, we don't and in the end, what we wanted will not bring us the satisfaction we were looking for!

Let me give you this example as we look at the children of Israel and their wilderness wanderings and what they wanted and what God had for them, and they were on opposite ends of the spectrum.

In Psalm 116:13-15 we are told, **“They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.”**

Notice that they did not remember all that God had done for them. They forget how God provided for them. And they did not seek His direction, which tells me that they were seeking their own direction, they were seeking after things that they wanted, and in the end, it hurt them, it did not benefit them! They lusted after other things instead of seeking after God!

And lust is something that can never be satisfied. In fact, one person said that lust is like the craving for salt for a man dying of thirst. It is foolish, it is not beneficial and in the end, it will destroy you.

The example here has to do with the bread that God provided for them in the desert. You see, God gave them angel's food to eat. Imagine that, angel's food. What did they call it? They called it *Manna*, ***“what is it?”***

And they got tired of the bread from heaven and lusted after other things. Thus, God gave them the desire of their hearts, dead meat, instead of the bread from heaven, and many died in the plague that God brought upon them and were buried in the graves of lusts, Kibroth Hattaavah. They got their carnal lusts, but in doing so God sent them a leanness to their soul!

What a lesson for us. God has sent us bread from heaven, Jesus.

In fact, in John chapter 6 Jesus said, “**. . . ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. . . . I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.’**” John 6:35, 48-51.

You see, true satisfaction comes as we feed on Jesus, feed on His Word, make Him part of our lives.

If we are not satisfied with the bread from heaven, He will give to us what we are lusting for, those dead things, those things that can’t bring forth life, that truly can’t satisfy, but it will cause you to be spiritual dry, barren, there will be leanness to your soul!

Look at the progression that takes place here.

They had a *short memory*. In other words, they forgot all the miracles that God had done for them.

That brought them to the place where they were no longer seeking His will, but they were *self-seeking*. They did not want to wait for God to guide them, direct them, they wanted to do what they wanted to do, and they wanted to do it when they felt like it. Not a good place to be.

That brought them to the place of *lust*, craving for things that will not help them, but it will hurt them.

And lastly, we see *their provocation*, that they tested God!

And this time God did give them what they wanted and like I said, it was not for their good.

Matthew Henry put it like this in regard to this kind of behavior, ***“What is asked in passion is often given in wrath.”***

May we remember what God has done in our life!

May we seek after His will instead of our own will!

May we not lust after things but have a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

And may we not test God, but may we allow God to test our faith so that we may grow in Him and not allow the Devil to tempt us to sin! Hard lessons but ones we do need to learn!

For Ruth, she was satisfied with what her lord, Boaz had provided for her and once again, she was also willing to share that with Naomi!

Warren Wiersbe sums this up for us like this. He wrote,

The Word of God and the Son of God can fully satisfy the heart of the believer. When we seek for satisfaction anywhere else, we will find ourselves disobedient and dissatisfied.

The lost world labors for that which doesn't satisfy (Isa 55:2), but the believer has full satisfaction because of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ps 36:7-9; 63:5; 65:4; 103:5; 107:9).

As the hymn writer put it:

Well of water ever springing,
Bread of life so rich and free,
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.
Hallelujah! I have found Him
Whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings,
Through His blood I now am saved.
(Clara T. Williams)

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 484

SATISFACTION IN THE LORD!

VERSES 15-17

I love what Boaz is doing here. Boaz tells his men to let her gather from the sheaves, don't rebuke her for doing that.

Not only was she getting the good stuff, but Boaz tells his men to let some grain fall from their bundles so she once again can gather more grain. Don't let any of the men rebuke her for doing that!

And, after a long day's work, Ruth gleaned about ½ bushel of barley, about 30 pounds, which was more than enough to provide for these two women for one week!

What we see here is that Boaz is providing for Ruth above and beyond all that she could ask or think.

Now let's play this through looking at what our Lord does for us. Again, keep in mind we are in a section that I have called – ***PROVISION OF THE LORD!***

Our God provides for us, He enables us to do more than we can ever imagine, and He even prepares the work we are to do.

In fact, what Boaz did for Ruth our Lord does for us. What do I mean by that?

Listen to what Paul has to say in Ephesians 3:20-21, **“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”**

Our God provides for us and many times we don't even understand how or why, but He is gracious, and He is merciful, and He gives to us abundantly!

Now here is something that we might not think about, but how often do we reflect on what God has done for us? How often do we look back and thank God for how He did exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think?

If you haven't done that, you need to!

But why? Why is that even important?

First of all, it reminds us of how God provides for us even in the most difficult of times.

Also, we need to thank Him for all that He has done, is doing and will do in our lives.

And I truly believe that as we meditate upon what God has done, how He has seen us through many situations, that it will encourage us for what we are presently facing in life!

Let me give you this example from my own life.

Many of you know I have diabetes and I take insulin. And sometimes my blood sugar would drop when I was teaching and that is never a good thing.

And I was having problems with low readings almost every night, but most of the time I woke up and was able to get some juice.

And there were a few times Julie had to push me out of bed to get me to go, I can be stubborn. I know, hard to believe.

And the Lord was gracious because I did not wake up many times when my sugar was low, but the Lord would wake Julie up and she would check to see if I was okay and if I was sweating, she knew my sugar was low and she would wake me up.

One night, before bed, I was having my snack and Julie went up to bed. After about an hour or two she got up to see why I did not come to bed. And she looked and did not see me in the kitchen, and she was going to go back to bed thinking I was in the bathroom downstairs. But the Lord prompted her to take another look and there I was, passed out under the kitchen table.

She struggled to get me into the chair after grabbing some juice and I don't remember this, but she said that I drank it, but I don't remember. And my sugar was still only in the 20's after all that juice. Very low and dangerous.

So she had to call the paramedics to come and give me a shot of sugar but she could not let go of me to open the door because I would fall out of the chair.

Again, the hand of God. Julie gave the paramedics the code to the garage door and they were able to get in.

Once they got the sugar in me, I woke up and said, "***Wow, there are a lot of people in this room!***" I am not too bright!

Well, when I went to see my doctor that incident was kind of the last straw and he, also with the encouragement from my wife, ordered an insulin pump and a glucose monitoring device for me.

I was on an insulin pump some 20 plus years ago but had to stop because of the cost. And once again we could not afford the cost for these units, but again, God is gracious because it was at the end of the year and we had paid off our deductible and thus, the insurance covered everything for me.

And it has changed my life in that I know that I am going low with my blood sugar before it gets dangerous and I get into trouble.

You may hear from time to time an alarm going off and I know if it is a high alarm or a low one. And I am pretty good at keeping it on the higher side just for safety while I am teaching.

The point of all of this is that God provided exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think, and it has been such a blessing to me and now, my wife does not wake up to check on me, she can get a good night's rest.

A few months after getting the insulin pump and the glucose monitor, she said to me, ***“Joe, I am not waking up checking to see if you are okay anymore during the night! I am able to rest again!”*** Praise God!

Now that is just one story and I can spend hours going over the things that God has done, how He has provided for me and I am sure you can do the same. The thing is, do we thank Him? Our we truly thinking about all that He has done in our lives? We should!

Peter tells us in II Peter 1:2-4, **“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”**

Spurgeon put it like this, “Many things are great which are not precious, such as great rocks, which are of little value; on the other hand, many things are precious which are not great—such as diamonds and other jewels, which cannot be very great if they be very precious. But here we have promises which are so great, that they are not less than infinite, and so precious, that they are not less than divine.”

Why are these precious promises so important to us?

Because if we truly believe them, then we will apply them to our lives and we will walk by faith.

Let me share this with you about God's precious promises. We are told,

As believers, we are wealthy beyond measure. However, the sad truth is many Christians live like spiritual paupers despite the many riches God has given them.

Through "His precious and magnificent promises," He's granted us all we need to live godly lives (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

The word precious describes something valuable and cherished, and magnificent means something is splendid or superb. The promises of God can be defined using both of these terms because of His trustworthiness.

On the day of your salvation, you inherited all of God's promises and became truly prosperous. However, in order to benefit, you must cash them in. To live without claiming what God has for you is like being a millionaire who has a bankbook but never writes a check.

When you were saved, you gained a vast wealth of spiritual riches that are now at your disposal. And when you realize how much He wants to bless you with, you can't help but be amazed. For example:

- **The Lord brought you into relationship with Him** (Rom. 5:6-11). When you trusted Jesus as your Savior, you became a child of God and a member of His household. This is the foundation of your heritage because all other promises flow from a relationship with Him.
- **You can have daily cleansing** (1 John 1:9). As His child, you now have the privilege to come to Him each day, confess your sins, and receive His forgiveness in order to grow in unhindered fellowship with Him.
- **God's presence is continually with you** (Heb. 13:5). You have a traveling companion in the person of Christ. He's your intimate friend and has promised to never leave nor forsake you, no matter what's going on in your life.
- **You have the Holy Spirit who is your Helper** (John 14:16). Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send a Helper. You now have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to provide guidance and empower you to accomplish everything the Lord asks.

- **You have the assurance of God's strength** (Isa. 41:10). When you're weak and helpless, you can rely upon the sovereign Ruler of the universe who has unlimited power and has promised to strengthen you.
- **God Himself will supply all your needs** (Matt. 6:31-32). He knows exactly what you need and has committed Himself to provide it. Instead of worrying about your problem, you can simply rely on Him.
- **He answers your prayers** (1 John 5:14-15). When you pray according to God's will, He answers. In fact, prayer is the means of cashing in His promises. Just take your needs to Him and claim those that apply to your situation. . . .
- **He daily bears your burdens** (Ps. 68:19). There is no reason to wake up each morning hindered by trials and heartaches. If you lay your concerns down before God and believe in His promises, He'll replace your worries with remarkable joy.
- **He comforts you in times of trouble** (2 Cor. 1:3-4). No matter what the difficulty may be, God knows what you're going through, and He will come alongside you to provide comfort and encouragement.
- **The Lord sets limits on your trials and temptations** (1 Cor. 10:13). He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to endure. When you think you can't take any more, He'll provide the way of escape so you can persevere.
- **He grants wisdom** (James 1:5). In every decision and circumstance you face, God offers wisdom to see life from His perspective if you ask in faith and without doubt. However, sin can keep you from claiming this promise because it crowds out truth, creates uncertainty, and leads to unwise choices.
- **The Lord provides rest for your soul** (Matt. 11:28-29). When your heart is burdened, Jesus offers both physical and emotional rest to those who come to Him.
- **God gives His peace** (Phil. 4:6-7). Whenever you bring your anxieties to God in prayer, He provides His surpassing peace, and it creates an impenetrable wall that separates you from all your worries. . . .
- **He is a very present help in trouble** (Ps. 46:1-3). The Lord is your refuge in times of uncertainty and danger. Since His presence dwells within you, He is always available to help in every way.
- **God gives you direction for life** (Ps. 32:8). He knows the pitfalls and dangers that lie ahead and has promised to teach you which way to go to stay on His path. . . .
- **Nothing can separate you from God's love** (Rom. 8:38-39). His unconditional love is a possession no one can ever take from you. When you doubt that, review this passage.

- **Jesus provides the gift of eternal security** (John 10:27-30). Christ promised eternal life to His followers, so when you die, you'll instantly be with Him.
- **You have a home in heaven** (John 14:1-3). Before Jesus died and rose again, He told His disciples He was going away to prepare a place for them and would one day return and take them there. This is your ultimate hope.

- <https://bit.ly/3aAIXBE>

And there are thousands of these precious promises in the Bible that God has for us. But we must walk by faith, we must trust in what God has promised us.

For Ruth, that is exactly what she did. She walked by faith, went into the fields of Boaz and gleaned the grain. Boaz had promised her the freedom to do that, but again, she had to walk by faith to receive them and so must we.

The ***PROVISION OF GOD!*** It is there for us; may we walk accordingly!

VERSES 18-23

In this last point we are going to look at – ***OUR HOPE IN THE LORD!***

We see in these verses that Ruth brings her blessings home with her to share with Naomi!

Not only did she bring this grain home, but also, she brought home the leftovers from the meal that Boaz shared with her.

That truly is a special woman, one who has been touched by God and she may not have known a lot about this God, but what she knew was manifested in her life!

Now, when Naomi saw all that Ruth had gleaned that day and the other food she brought, she was dumbfounded. She couldn't believe what she saw, and she wanted to know what field that Ruth was gleaning in.

And when Naomi found out it was the field of Boaz; she realized that he was a near relative, a Goel or kinsman who could redeem the land that they sold when they left for Moab ten years earlier.

Not only that, but Ruth explains to Naomi that Boaz wants her to stay close to his young women in the fields and Naomi encourages Ruth to do just that.

Now if you look at how Naomi is responding, as she sees the Lord blessing, she is no longer Mara or bitter but Naomi or pleasant.

What changed in her life?

It wasn't the Lord because He was still the same. But it was her attitude towards the Lord. She saw the hand of God working even in difficult situations and truly, that is what God was showing them all along, they just ran from Him and now Naomi has returned!

You see, she had hope, hope in the Lord as she saw the hand of God once again working in her life.

I don't think we understand how important hope is in our lives and specifically, hope in the Lord. Let me share this example with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

Larry Carter, president of Great Lakes Christian College, tells the following true story:

I remember when I was a kid, some 40 years ago, playing on a Little League Baseball team.

One of the things our coach did was host a picnic for the team at the beginning of the season. After we ate hot dogs and burgers, he sat us down for a pep talk. He asked, "How many of you have a dream to one day play in the Major Leagues?"

Almost every hand shot up. Every kid with his hand up believed he could do it. You could see it in their eyes. He then told us, "If that is to happen - that dream begins now!"

I was so inspired by that challenge - all of us were - that we practiced and played hard and we went undefeated for the next few years. All-Star teams from other leagues would play us and lose!

Some 25 years later I became a Little League coach. I brought all the kids together at the beginning of the season to give them a pep talk - the same one my coach had given me. I asked my team the same question, “How many of you have a dream to one day play in the Major Leagues?”

Not one hand was raised. Not one kid believed he could do it. You could see it in their eyes. I was speechless.

The rest of my talk was meaningless, so I said, “Really? Nobody? Well, go get your gloves and let’s throw.”

I thought about that day for a long time. What had happened in the 25 years since I was a kid? What had come into their lives to steal their dreams? What had convinced them they would never be more than what they were?

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The reason is simple – ***THEY LOST HOPE!***

And this whole point of hoping in the Lord is what we have just talked about, trusting in the promises of God or trusting in God’s Word!

If we can’t do that, then we will lose faith, we will lose hope, and what we could have accomplished in the Lord, we will fall far short of doing!

The Bible is the Word of God. It draws us closer to Jesus, instructs us, inspires us, comforts us, convicts us of sin, and tells us how to live godly lives.

And I think most if not all of us would say that we trust God's Word!

But let's look at this for a minute. What about during the tough times, the difficult times, do you still believe all that God has said, even that everything is working out for good? You need to!

And that is where it does get difficult for us. We don't understand why this is happening. We wonder why God is allowing it. And we start to lose hope and when we start to lose hope, we start to lose our trust in the Word of God and then we end up hopeless!

And we do see that a lot today. When you look at all that is going on in this country, it is easy to lose hope and you are ready to throw your hands up in the air and say, "***What is the use!***"

I will tell you this. Yes, it is easy to feel that way, but it is because you have your eyes focused in the wrong direction!

What do I mean by that?

Before I answer that let me ask you this. Do you think God is worried about what is going on? Do you think God has lost control? Do you think God has lost hope?

I know, more than one question but you get the idea. The answer is – ***OF COURSE NOT!***

Now, in saying that God is not worried, that He has not lost control, that He has not lost hope, if we have, then we are looking in the wrong places. We need to focus upon the Lord and allow His peace, His comfort, His hope fill our lives.

Paul put it like this in Colossians 3:1-4, **“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

I am sure we all know this, that is not the problem. The problem comes when we have to apply this to our lives. We have to get our eyes off of what we see before us and place them above, upon the Lord, the One who can help us with our problems, the One who has promised to be with us all the days of our life!

You see, change the perspective, hope in the Lord, and you can rest in Him!

May we trust in all that the Lord is telling us, and our hope has to be in Him because nothing is too hard for the Lord! And God is faithful, what He has promised us He is more than able to bring it to pass!

For Ruth, she is a remarkable woman of faith.

She found – ***SATISFACTION IN THE LORD!***

She saw the – ***PROVISION OF THE LORD!***

And her – ***HOPE IS IN THE LORD!***

Let me close with this for you to think about.

No one who knows what can happen at sea would go to sea in a vessel that carried no anchor, even though it were the greatest and most modern liner afloat, for circumstances might arise when the hope of the ship and all her company would depend, not on the captain or the crew, the engines, the compass, or the steering gear, but on the anchor. When all else has failed there is hope in the anchor.

As Paul reminds us in Hebrews 6:19-20, **“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”**

May we anchor our lives in Jesus, our hope, so that we don't drift away!