

**Sermon: The State of the Vision**; delivered by  
**Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on May 17, 2020

**Bible text explored: Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. [ESV]

**Review and application:**

1. In his book *Nicholas Nickelby*, Charles Dickens described hope as “heaven’s own gift to struggling mortals.” But an optimistic expectation requires a foundation. For the average person today, what justification is there for confidence?

For the biblical believer, on the other hand, what revelation makes it an assured destiny?

*In summary form, today’s text describes hope as the very nature of God. Because that is so, by believing him, our destiny is anchored in a rock-solid hope.*

2. How is God the God of hope because of . . .

. . . his knowledge? (*Psalms 147:4-5*)

. . . his eternal presence? (*Revelation 1:8*)

. . . his enabling? (*Jude [1] 24-25*)

3. How do we obtain joy and peace?

4. What is the “obedience of faith” so integral to the Book of Romans? (See *Romans 1:5 & 17; 16:25-27*.)

5. How was this belief demonstrated . . .

. . . by Joseph? (*Genesis 50:24*)

. . . by Moses? (*Deuteronomy 18:15*)

. . . by Jeremiah? (*Jeremiah 29:10-11*)

Can we trust that God’s plan for Jeremiah applies to us as well?

6. Why is this form of obedience best displayed in dark times?

7. Why does it take more than sheer determination to “abound in hope”?

*Pastor Moody cited three factors that will shape our shared vision:*

8. *Surviving*: What adjustments is clinging to Christ in a time of crisis requiring? (See *Matthew 16:13-18*.)

What new opportunities is it presenting?

9. *Thriving*: How might we expect the work of God to move forward in this interim period? (*Isaiah 55:10-11*)

10. *Reviving*: How can we expect to gain new strength and energy? (*Romans 8:18-25; Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 85:6*.)

Finally, reflect on these words of Stuart Townend, based on *Psalm 62*, and sung in our worship service:

*The fields of hope in which I sow are harvested in heaven.*