



## **WOW: Word Of the Week**

### **Unashamed**

**January 13, 2021**

Unashamed hope! Our familiarity with the verse eliminates the discordance. Does a shameful hope exist? What is an “ashamed hope?” What should we learn?

Here is strength for the journey, words for this life that point to the next. Biblical hope does not disappoint us or confuse us. Biblical hope does not dishonor or disgrace us. It does not make us blush, “Sorry, I was wrong!”

The hope God supplies is certain, though unseen. The writer of Hebrews connects confidence in God’s promises to faith (Heb. 11:1). God’s Word translates Rom. 5:5: We are not ashamed to have this confidence.”

Here is ESV: Not only that, but we rejoice (boast, take pride) in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Boasting and pride are contrasted with shame. What if we boast and are proud and our boast proves empty, our pride false? That simply does not happen if our hope is God-based and God-founded. Hope is not unfounded wishing, “I hope so....” Biblical hope takes inventory and concludes that all of the evidence points in one direction – even though the future is beyond our sight and experience.

Romans 5 precedes Romans 8. We eagerly await, having the firstfruits of the Spirit, the redemption of our physical bodies, which Paul describes as adoption finalized. Hope is by definition future, unseen. We are saved in hope, we live in hope, we patiently and eagerly wait in hope.

Hope sustains us, never shames us. Hope buoys our spirits through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Hope gives us confidence that the Holy Spirit intercedes before God’s throne when words fail us.

Word of the week – unashamed! Or, if you please, unashamed hope! Perhaps you will find renewed strength for the remainder of this week. For a Christian, hope does not disappoint us, confuse us, fail us. Of this we can be certain – if our hope is a biblical hope, it will never put us to shame! We can depend on God’s promises, God’s Word.