

A Benediction for 2019

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. NASB

A. The Benediction in Context:B. The Benediction:C. The Benediction Applied:

1. The God of Hope in 2019

2. The God of Hope in 2020

D. The Benediction Practiced:**Discussion Questions**

1. Read Romans 15:1-13. What were the challenges the Church at Rome was facing? How could the benediction in verse 13 be applied to the Church in Rome as a whole? To our Church?

2. Read over verse 13. How do the segments of the verse build upon each other, moving from the God of hope to abounding in hope?

3. Read Acts 13:47-52. What challenges do you see the believers having to work through to have joy in this context? Have there been challenges to your joy in 2019? How has the God of hope caused you to abound in hope in the challenges?

4. Read I John 3:1-3. How might this passage influence our concerns about the challenges of 2020?

5. Think of a couple of people that you know who are dealing with some serious challenges as we enter 2020... pray the benediction from Romans 15:13 for them and let them know that you prayed for them.

No matter what **our hopes** are — if they are **human hopes** — we will wind up dissatisfied in some direction or another. **The only hope that can ultimately fulfill our desires is Jesus Christ.** Marva Dawn