

*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing.*

[Romans 15:13](#)

Introduction: Today is often called “Bible Sunday” because all the Propers for this Sunday (the Collect, Epistle and Gospel readings) point to the purpose and usefulness of the Scriptures.

1. The Bible was given to us so that we might have HOPE.
 - a. Hope = the sure and certain confidence that what has been promised will be fulfilled.
 - b. The bible is the record of all God's promises.
 - c. The bible is also the record of how God has fulfilled many of his promises SO THAT we may have confidence in the future fulfillment of all remaining promises.
2. The most essential quality we must possess when we meet Christ is HOPE.
“ Now faith is the assurance of things HOPED FOR, the conviction of (A)things not seen... And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God (I)must believe that he exists and (J)that HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM. [Hebrews 11:1,6](#) (emphasis added)

Theological note: the opposite of hope is despair and it is listed as one of the deadly (mortal sins). Despair is a complete loss of confidence in God's promises, and it kills our relationship with God.

3. The surest way to build hope in our lives is to
Hear and read the Scriptures – take every opportunity to familiarize yourself with its content
Mark and learn the Scriptures – study it carefully so that you may understand its content and its intentions
Inwardly digest the Scriptures – apply the truth of Scripture to your own life. i.e. dare to hope in the promises recorded in Scripture.

Conclusion: The Scriptures exist to give you reason to hope. Use them to build a hopeful life which pleases God.