

The Word is Given for You
Pastor Eric Brown
Trinity, Herscher

Romans 15:4-5a: "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another...."

Verse 4 begins with a profound assertion. When we read the Scriptures, we aren't just reading a history of things that happened long ago - as though we were reading a book on the history of World War I. There's a distance and separation from me and World War I - I'm a passive observer, well removed. Not so with the Scriptures. Everything written, all the things that happened, and how they were recorded - they were written and recorded by God specifically for you - so that you, this day, right now, would have hope in Christ Jesus. You're not distant from the Word, you're not hearing the Scriptures by accident - but when the Holy Spirit moved those men of old, part of the reason He moved those men to write was precisely for you this day. Paul wrote this to the Romans not only for the Romans, but for you right now.

This is how God works. God works through His Word for your good. In verse 4 Paul notes that the Scriptures work through endurance and through encouragement. And then, immediately in verse 5 he calls God the "God of endurance and encouragement." Do you see the connection? Do you know what this means? In the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is working upon you - He is giving you Himself, He is giving you Christ Jesus. The reason we have endurance and encouragement is because God Himself is our endurance and encouragement.

This week, should you come to know that you need God to be active for you, for your good - you don't have to wait around. Go to the Word, and there the Holy Spirit will be present and active for you, for your good. Be in the Word - because the Scriptures were written to give you Jesus, so that you have hope even until Jesus comes again and we see Him face to face.