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HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

Even as this is being written hundreds upon hundreds of people are standing in lines waiting somewhat patiently to climb into one contraption or another at the various amusement parks housed here in Southern California. They even paid a princely sum to wait in line. In a recent study by Timex, on average Americans wait twenty minutes a day on the bus or train. If they visit the doctor the wait time is thirty-two minutes, if one is traveling twenty-eight minutes is spent waiting in line for security purposes. It is estimated that one has to wait on a significant other some twenty-one minutes to get ready to go out. Yearly, Americans are "on hold" for a whopping thirteen hours. On and on it goes, waiting for one thing or another. One study marks the time we wait during a lifetime at six months, while another charts it at close to a year and a half. Regardless, we can all agree that we spend a significant portion of our life waiting.

To make the wait time seem less onerous, distractions as set in place. At amusement parks, doctors offices and elsewhere large screen televisions are in evidence all in hope of easing ones concern. But with every twist and turn the line doesn't seem to be getting shorter! But isn't that just like life, when will it be our turn for the job we want, or the recognition of a job well done at work. Or with respect to personal relationships, one may lament as to when it will be their turn for things to work out. In all of this the words of encouragement is offered to "be patient, soon it will be your turn."

True, life is replete with heartbreak and suffering. But if we place our trust in God, and patiently endure, we will not be disappointed. In Romans, chapter five and verses three

through five, the apostle Paul wrote, "*And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*"



Hope, what a beautiful word, and as noted above, the child of God does indeed have hope. Keep in mind that hope is more than wishful thinking. It is a confident expectation based on God's character and His word. Once again notice the words of Paul, this time from

2Timothy 2:11-13. "*It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.*" What comfort, what firm assurance, He is a constant.

While it may seem at times that life is composed of waiting for our turn, frustration doesn't even begin to describe what at times we may feel. Yet, we are reminded of hope. In God we long for, yeah hope for that which has been promised. "*For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.*" (Romans 8:24-25)

We are surrounded by a world that more often than not disappoints us, how blessed it is to know that God provides hope that is true and genuine. Take some time and look at what is seen in Jeremiah 29:11. (wbe)