



Charting the Course:

a devotion by Chuck Hall

The Scarlet Cord

“In you, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be put to shame. For you are my hope, O Lord GOD...”
Psalm 71:1,5

I'm recovering from a bad cold. I slept most of the weekend. Sleep and rest seem to help most when I'm sick. I've also gone through a dry period spiritually. Maybe it was all the traveling that Mary Nell and I did in the past few months.

All of us experience “dry periods” when the Word does not seem as alive and the Lord does not seem as near. So you can imagine how refreshing it was when the Lord ministered to me out of Psalm 71. I've just “camped out” in that beautiful scripture praying those powerful, life-giving words over and over, *“In you, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be put to shame. For you are my hope, O Lord GOD.”*

The world is filled with people who have no hope. The things they trusted in have been taken away. Some have lost their loved ones. Others have lost their jobs. Savings are gone. People don't know what to do. They've never learned to trust in God.

I want to learn to trust the LORD and put my hope in Him. I want to trust Him more with all of my cares, concerns, and problems. He alone is our Hope and our Trust. Our hope for the future is in His hands, as we trust in Him.

The scarlet cord that Rahab tied in her window through which the Israeli spies escaped from Jericho represents hope. The same word that is translated “cord” in Joshua 2:18 and 21, is translated “hope” in Psalms 71:5. That red cord of hope saved Rahab and all of her family.

You remember the story. God completely destroyed the city of Jericho and all its people—even all the animals. For seven days Joshua and his army marched around the city. Every time around they saw the scarlet cord hanging from Rahab's window. This reminded them of the promise that Rahab and her family were not to be harmed. On the day of destruction only Rahab and her family were saved.

What a picture of the One that was to hang on that bloody cross. The One Who with His precious blood saves those who hope in Him.

Yes, LORD, in You I hope and put my trust; for You alone are my Hope and my Trust.

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