

Romans 5:3-11

This is part two of Romans 5:1-11. We covered verses 1 and 2 last week. We explored Peace with God, access to grace by faith, and rejoicing in hope among other things. How did it go with reminding yourself about what you have to rejoice about? Now on to verses 3-11

Believers are living in the present in positional peace with God. We are no longer God's enemy. But that does not mean we have peace on earth. In fact, when we are loyal to God, God's enemies will make us their enemies. That's just how loyalty goes. If you are a true friend, you always take on the true enemies of the person you befriend.

So as we glory in the peace we have with God, we are also going to learn to glory in the peace we **lack** with God's enemies. As one author states- **that is strong medicine**. We **glory** in **hope of the good that is coming**. We also **glory** in the **negative experiences that are a result of following Christ**. We glory in the cost that **identification** with Christ creates. And we glory, not because we are psychotic pain lovers. We glory because we know what it is 1)**producing** and what it is 2)**proving** and what it is 3)**providing**. We rejoice because whatever we face is worth the price. We don't love the price but we love the outcome.

There is a story that a ruler wanted to punish a Christian. He told one of his staff members to kill the believer. The staff member said that this would not hurt the Christian because he **will view death as a good thing**. OK said the ruler, then **torture** him but don't **kill** him. That won't work either said the staff member. He will rejoice that he was chosen to **suffer for Christ's sake**. The ruler said, well what will hurt him? The staff member said that the only thing that would truly hurt him is if you could cause him to sin. This is a perfect example of what is being described in the next verse.

³And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

Not only is the believer rejoicing in the future hope of God's glory but he **glories** now in tribulations. This is life as we know it. This is what we live with while waiting and hoping. We will face tribulations.

Tribulations- oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits, the hard times we face when standing by faith in grace

Last week we talked about **rejoicing, glorying, bragging** in **hope**. This word for rejoice is the same word that is used to **rejoice in tribulations**.

We are bragging about God in the midst of **tribulations**. , These tribulations are the direct result of identifying with Christ. That is commonly how the word tribulation is used in scripture. It is the cost of following Christ that is dished out by Gods enemies. Even while we know that God will reveal his glory in the future, we in **hope** glorify God in the realities of our present existence. And why? Because we know three things by the tribulations.

1. We know that they are evidence that we are Christ's people. This is what tribulation is **proving**.
John 15: 18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

2. We also know that the tribulations will produce good things in our lives for God's glory. This is what it is **producing**.
II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that

the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12So then death is working in us, but life in you.

13And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, 14knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. 15For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

16Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

3. We know that we are assured a great reward. This is what it is **providing**.

Matt 5: **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,**

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹**"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Tribulations- produce perseverance-

Scripture is always very realistic about the life we are to live on this planet. There is no flowery, pie in the sky, picture of our existence on this planet. To live for Christ will involve persecution of one sort or another. Our faith and our resources are sufficient to face these tribulations. God has seen to that. So we glory in the tribulations because there is a

point. The tribulations produce something. It is not suffering for the sake of suffering. It is suffering that causes a better outcome for the glory of God. Here we see that tribulations produce **perseverance**.

- 1) steadfastness, constancy, endurance
 - 1a) in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
 - 1b) patiently, and steadfastly
- 2) a patient, steadfast waiting for, enduring

The believer has a goal and that is to be faithful to His Lord until death. Tribulations are a helper in that process. They are not a distraction from faith but a builder of faith. They produce a steadfast and a patient waiting dependence upon God. It helps the believer cling to his purpose. Times of plenty and comfort do not usually produce this quality. But hard times do when greeted by faith. This perseverance is a standing up to the tribulation. It is resisting the pressure to fold, to quit. It is a keeping on keeping on.

⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Then what does this endurance and steadfastness result in?

Character. 2) approved, tried character 3) a proof, a specimen of tried worth

If a person faces rough times and clings to his faith he develops a habit of hanging on to God. He can be trusted to cling to Christ no matter what happens. He is a solid person, not one likely to bail out or change positions due to external situations. He is trustable. The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. When a believer faces hard times and holds on to Christ, he is likely to continue doing the same.

And what does character produce? **Hope** joyful and confident expectation of that which God is going to do. As we face tribulations which produce a habit of hanging on to God, a constancy, which produces a habitual walk with God, a trustable character and living according to what He says.... This

then produces a joyful and confident expectation of what God will do now and especially in the future. We learn to live like David who is often shown to trust God to do great things, even when his life is in the middle of very hard things.

⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

This confident expectation does not disappoint- to dishonor, disgrace, to put to shame, make ashamed. Remember how Paul said he was

“not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ because it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.””

Well that is why our hope does not disappoint, it does not shame us. It does not dishonor us. The one who we trust **to** deliver us... **WILL** deliver us. He will always do everything He has promised to do.

Our hope in Romans starts with the revelation of God’s grace and God’s righteousness. We learn some things in our head. And God causes us to believe them. But that cognitive hope becomes an experiential hope. The love of God gets poured out in our hearts.

We become even more confident because we experience what we believed was true.

There are two ways of seeing this phrase “**the love of God has been poured out in our hearts**” and they are both true.

1. God has poured out **His love for us** and others in our hearts. He has lavished his love on us by His Word and His Spirit who lives in us. It has been revealed factually and poured out experientially. Christ said that the world would know that we are believers by our love for one another. I John 4:

9In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might

live through Him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

A believer is a channel for God's love to this planet. God's love for us is poured out in our hearts and overflows to those we come into contact with. Christ met our need without regard for his expense and this quality is poured out on us and we will do the same. It is an undeniable force in a believer's life.

2. God has poured **into us a love for God**. If we love God at all we know that it did not come from us. We love Him because He first loved us.

This love when present in our lives is a rock solid evidence that God has wrought a change in our hearts. He has caused us to love Him. Instead of running and hiding from God like Adam and Eve in their sin, we run **TO** God. We seek to learn the law to love God better. We seek to spurn sin because God hates sin. We seek to witness to others because God wants to bring His children to Himself. And how did this love get in our hearts?

The word for **Poured Out** or **Shed Abroad** is the same Word as used in Acts 2:33 where God shed forth the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The love of God was given to us the same way the first century church received the Holy Spirit's outpouring.

by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.- The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of what God is going to do in us and to us.

II Cor 1:²¹Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, ²²who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**.

II Cor 5: ⁴For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now He who has

prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a **guarantee**.

Ephesians 1: ¹³In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

And this Holy Spirit has been given to every believer. If the Holy Spirit is not in you, you are not one of His. If He is, you are. It is good to notice that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God is a gift. We cannot earn God's presence inside us. It, like salvation must be given to us. Now how did we get this gift? What was the source of this gift? What enabled this gift?

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Paul has been talking about salvation by faith verses salvation earned by fleshly works. Now he goes on to lay more fuel on the fire he has started. When did Christ die for us and what was our status when He did? We were still without strength. This word for without strength is used in Acts 4 describing the lame man prior to being healed. The word is translated **impotent** in that case. The man **could not get up** and no amount of trying would **gain any success** in the matter. That is what we are like before Christ moves upon us. We cannot love God, we cannot turn our hearts toward God. We have no faith that saves. We are completely dependent upon the God who saves.

That was the status of our hearts before God moved in our behalf.

Due time- Due befitting, congruous, corresponding to a thing. When the time was perfectly fit for God's purpose, when it was congruous to His plan and our need, Christ died. And who did he died for? **The faithful? No, not at all.** He died for the ungodly. He died for those without strength to save themselves. It is amazing that there was a tick of the clock that was perfect for God's purpose. God did not want Christ to die a hundred years, a

few weeks or even a few seconds before or after Christ died. Christ died in due time. God had this in mind before there was time, that Christ would die in one specific moment for the sins of everyone who would ever come to Him.

⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

Now Paul drives home the truth of our unworthiness, the idea that salvation is by faith, not fleshly works. He points out that it is rare that that anyone dies for anyone else. Even if a person has a record of doing very good things for others it is rare. Take note that the word "righteous" is being used loosely here. Even today we will say- He is a good man. We don't mean he can stand on his own merit before God, but we mean the man exhibits some virtues.

So it is rare that a man would give up his life for a virtuous person...But it could happen. Maybe a person would actually die for a person who has been very good to him or to others. That has happened in the history of the world. So it is possible, though rare.

⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

But no one dies for a person who is at enmity against him. No one dies for the man that is in the state of sinning against him. That is more than rare. Apart from the love of Christ, that simply does not happen. **But** that is exactly what Christ did. Like many of the uses of the word **But** in scripture, this is a but that saves our lives (Butt).

God **demonstrated**- one of the uses of the greek word for demonstrated is- to put together by way of composition or combination, to teach by combining and comparing

God demonstrates his love for us by comparing it to our love for another and it is vastly superior. God demonstrates His own love toward us by having Christ die for us while we were still actively sinning against Him. That is the kind of love God has.

We don't but He does. God did not have the kind of selfish human love we are so used to. We give so we can get. We do what is in our best interest. We don't naturally sacrifice without some hope of a reward that is worth the sacrifice. We give things of value to get things of value. But Christ died because we needed him to die. He died to save us. I do not see how we could **ever** be worth His sacrifice... **ever**. We know that Christ wants to have a family for Himself, but he has no **need** as we think of need. He died because it is like Him and His Father to meet the need no matter what the cost.

⁹Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

My first question in this verse is "Much more then than what?" I think what Paul is saying is that if Christ died for us to save us when we were **in the state of sin against him, how much more** will our hope not disappointment us knowing this **additional evidence**, that we have **now been justified** by His blood and we are no longer in the **state of enmity** against Him. It is one thing to have Christ die for us, to perform this self sacrificing act. But it is another to know the effect that this act has had in eternity for our benefit.

His death proves His loving **intent** but justification proves the **efficacy** of His sacrifice. He truly did take on our sin and gave us His righteousness. His blood wasn't just **a loving act** but it was **an effective act**. It has brought us back into a peaceful relationship with God. And we are no longer facing the wrath that our sin deserved. Christ took that wrath. And by Him we will be saved from that wrath.

¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

I think Paul restates what he has just said in another way. If Christ's death changed us from being enemies to being reconciled

to God... if that is what Christ's death did... just think of what His resurrection life power will do in those who are reconciled.

Reconciled- 1b) return to favor with, be reconciled to one 1c) to receive one into favor

So as enemies we were received into God's favor. We were returned to favor with God. And this was accomplished, not by any fleshly act but through the death of God's Son. That is very good and absolutely essential. But there is more. Having us in the right state is only half the goal. We have a life to live for God's glory and Christ's life is the power we will live by. We were saved by Christ death and will be saved by His life. One put us in the state of peace with God, a reconciled state. But we are still living. There are works prepared for us from the beginning of time. How will we live? How will we perform those works? How will we continue to live in the reconciled state? It is by the power of Christ's life.

¹¹And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

So not only were we **reconciled to God by Christ's death** and not only do we **live in the power of Christ's resurrected life**, but we also **rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ**. We don't just exist but we live in a state of rejoicing. We have more than the technical state of peace with God and a power for living, we have a reason to rejoice every day. Previously Paul said we glory in hope, then we glory in tribulation. That is the same word used here for rejoice. Here we glory in God. Our hope does not disappoint us.