

In the Hope of Glory ▪ Romans 5:1-5

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We are looking at Rom. 5 today.

Two main reasons:

1. Rom. 5 speaks a word to the world we live in...a world that can almost appear *hopeless*.

Opinion article from World News, Dec 25.

“For committed Christians who remain committed to orthodox theology and ethics, these are difficult days....various forms of sexual perversion, Religious liberty under constant threat...

Many of the most influential cultural spheres are captive to anti-christian worldview...”

If we look at the moral and ethical environment of our culture, it can seem hopeless.

2. Rom. 5 prepares us for our mission conference next week.

- Romans was written as a mission letter, not a theological treatise.
- Paul was not writing a dissertation for his doctoral degree to say: “I’ll attempt to write a document that will pack some of the most biblically robust themes, that will be celebrated as one of the most treasured doctrinal writings.”

*No, Paul wrote as an apostle who was a *church planting missionary who deeply cared about the gospel of God going to the ends of the earth*.

- Paul writes because he loves the church, the gospel, and seeing it spread to the nations

Evidence

Romans 1:5 ESV

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

Romans 16:26 (ESV)

but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations,

One thing is desperately needed in our world, and for missions: Hope.

Hope is the major thread that ties Rom. 5:1-5 together.

...we rejoice in hope (v2)

...hope does not put us to shame (v5)

The theme of hope, gospel hope, is enough to help us with the challenges of the world, and the call to missions.

As Christians, we would do a lot better if we constantly asked, “How does the gospel train me to think about XYZ? What would Christ want me to think about this?”

- Our hope, which is Gospel hope, has a firm foundation and solid formation plan

The firm foundation (1-2)

- The firm foundation points back to everything in Ch 1-4: The gospel of God.
- Ch 5 —the consequences of believing in Christ (therefore)

We begin with the foundation: Justification by faith (v1)

Doug Moo (Justification): “declared innocent of all charges justly brought against those who sin and fall short of God’s glory (3:23).”

- The result is peace with God. To get a sense for that, it needs to be read alongside of v10.

To really understand, appreciate, and know this peace—we need to have a sense of the disruption and fracture that once was there....and feel the weight of “enemies of God”.

Some assume that they have always been at peace with God - having overall a decent good life, and trying to be nice and kind, unselfish. That does not bring peace with God.

The Bible is clear: No one is born into this world neutral, or naturally at peace.

All are born enemies.

- There is one, and only one way to have peace: through faith in the perfect work of Jesus Christ.
- For those who like a deeper dive, let me mention a textual issue.
- Some ancient manuscripts have v1 in a different verb tense—so it would be translated, “Let us have peace with God”.

If that were the case, then it would be urging us to have peace with God.

If we take that, it sounds like more foundation work needs done that we are responsible for.

*In other words, it’s up to us to lay hold of peace, to seek it.

- Many other manuscripts (ESV follows) translate as an objective fact.
- The internal evidence of the letter, the content of the gospel and justification convince me: The foundation is built—it is secure: since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.

Plus, God’s love is not something we are commanded to lay ahold of, is it? (v5)

- › God gives this foundational peace for being justified in Christ.

On the beauty of this foundation:

“But when God declares peace, when he declares us just, the war is over. And it is over for ever. To be sure, believers may incur his displeasure, they may cause him to respond with chastisement, but never again does God lift up the sword against his children. The war is over; the peace of God is ours.”

R. C. Sproul

Romans 8:33–34 ESV

Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- The foundation is not a proposition alone—but a person (v2)
- The center of Paul’s theology: Union with Christ
V2: Faith in Christ.
- Personal Faith is how we receive all of what Jesus has done.

In other words, you can’t start with hope—you can’t start with joy. A caboose cannot drive a train.

You have to start with Christ—everything flows from Him.

Colossians 1:17 ESV

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

How Christ-centered is your life? That will tell me something about your hope.

Is your life about many, many things, and Jesus is an add-on?

Your hope will likely be very thin.

Honestly, without Christ it makes sense to be a doomsday person—the sky is always falling; to live in perpetual fear, worry...anger.

Only when we look at the foundation—Christ, justification, peace with God — can we build a life of true hope.

The solid formation (3-5)

- Notice that rejoicing is stated twice (v2&3). The word could also be translated as some do (boast, exult)...emphasizing more confidence.

Maybe a combo is fitting: “joyful confidence”.

—There is a joyful confidence we have in God’s glory.

—There is also a joyful confidence in the formation work God does, especially at it involves suffering.

Joyful confidence is probably not our default thinking when it comes to suffering.

Usually we see it as frustrating. Annoying.

Yet that is what scripture calls us to.

James 1:2–3 ESV

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

- Stating in v3 we get introduced into a plan; God’s plan for fortifying and making hope.

3 Major Production Parts: suffering, endurance, character.

It makes sense that Paul is speaking of his own personal experience.

- The word for suffering refers to hardships and difficulty specifically in serving Christ; living in a hostile world—like an ant-Christian world.

Difficulty is part of, and proves the calling.

Philippians 1:29 ESV

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

I doubt many mothers who are chasing after a toddler, or up all night with a sick child, are going to tell you that life is easier being a mom.

Difficulty often proves calling.

1 Corinthians 4:11–13 ESV

To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.

Think of what God was forming in the apostle through this: more character, hope—more assurance of God’s love (See [Rom. 8!](#))

God forms us through suffering and uses it to accomplish the Gospel Calling.

These all build on each other; they each are productive.

We like things that are productive. Part of being American with a “can-do” mentality.

I’ve read multiple books on productivity and task-management.

We have bullet journals and apps to help with this stuff.

Yet when we hear the word suffering, sometimes it seems unproductive or wasteful.

12 years—the time John Bunyan spent in jail for preaching the gospel. But the world would not have *Pilgrim's Progress* if not.

- › *In Christ, suffering is always productive. It’s not always obvious, not always seen, but always productive. The proof - v3-5.*

Two things that are produced in suffering: endurance and character.

- Suffering that produces endurance makes sense—suffering helps you learn how to bear up; hold up and not give up.
- And it makes sense how endurance produces character.
- But how does character produce hope? (v4b)

I believe it ties to the main goal of the Christian life.

What is it?

[Romans 8:29](#) (ESV)

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.

› This is God's purpose for all of us on this earth: our character more conformed to Christ.

Or, that by Dec 31, 2024, that I am thinking, speaking, acting, more like the Lord Jesus.

**We see, or others see in us, that (especially forged in the furnace of affliction) it produces hope!

"Hope does not put to shame".

Being put to shame would be facing God's judgement.

- The last clause of v5 gives us the reason we can live in hope:

God's love. Not just a pinch; or a thin layer.

But poured out into our hearts, by the Holy Spirit.

- Did you catch this hope is very Trinitarian? —Founded on the work of Christ, and secured by the Father's love, implanted by the Spirit.

Which is why Christian hope is not just wishful thinking. *It's secured in God.*

In other words, why do we hope?

Because Jesus died for us,

God loves us,

and the Spirit dwells in us.

Calvin—We have an *indulgent Father*.

Hope is like a muscle. It will not grow, or be strong if you don't use it.

I am pretty regular at the gym. But occasionally I take a week off for traveling, or a full schedule.

I can feel it the next week—those muscles were unused. It doesn't take long to atrophy.

Spiritually, the same is true of hope. It doesn't take long...feeding too much on news and social media, and not enough on gospel and the promises of God is sure to make our hope muscles weak.

Let's not go there.

May the Lord give us grace to be a people who overflow with gospel hope as we live, suffer, serve, and live in his love.