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Romans 5 verses three through five. These are God's words. And not only that. But we also glory and tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance. And perseverance character. And character hope. Now, 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.

So, for the reading of God's word, we've had several blessed weeks at the beginning of Romans chapter 5 considering the experience, the condition, their status. The status of believers is that we are right, righteous. Uh, before God had been declared righteous by God only for the righteousness and sacrifice of Christ.

The condition of believers having been justified by faith. We have heard as one of peace. And one of servitude. And then, uh, last midweek. Uh, one of strength and joy. And hope. Which is to say, and absolutely certain gladness already. Of something that is not yet. Uh, which is the glory of God.

That we have been brought into a condition in which we are strengthened by Christ's strength. We stay in. In the evil day, knowing that there is a day coming. In which there will be no evil. And the strength by which we stand is the strength of the Lord. And we have the Lord's own joy.

Being weaned off of. Uh, the light and momentary pleasures. That we might have joy in that, which is eternal and weighty. Delight and God himself. Delighted in his glory. Delight in the knowledge of him.

And it is this certainty that we will have. That which we have come to begin enjoying. Rejoicing in the glory of God and the hope of the glory of God. We will have it perfectly. And we will. Desire. God's glory perfectly when we have the full experience. Of his glory.

And so we rejoice in the hope. Of the glory of God. Remember last week. Those whom he justified, he also glorified. It's absolutely certain that we will be made entirely like Christ. That we will as respects Jesus's human nature. Desire and enjoy God. The way Jesus does. The way.

Jesus is enjoyment. Of God has been counted for us. And we will have been conformed to him. And so, where the apostle goes next by the Spirit and the passage before us this evening. Are the means by which, or the path by which God brings us into. This Jesus, like enjoyment of himself.

Um, what is the path by which Christ is infallibly bringing the believer? Into his own enjoyment of God's glory. What's it like to be a Christian between the moment you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and your justified. And the moment you are finally fully conformed to the Lord.

Jesus Christ. And your glorified what goes in the middle?

Well. You may have heard, and I certainly heard. Uh, growing up that what goes in the middle is Um, a very nice. Easy life. That if you believe in Jesus and you Obey God. Uh, you are going to

be You're going to have. Everybody like you and You're going to manage your money, well, and you're going to be successful.

But that is not the path. By which he brings us to glory. Jesus is leading many sons to glory and there's only one path and it's the path that the lord Jesus took. That you remember what the apostle Paul says that he wants to be conformed to Christ's death?

If by any means he may attain to his resurrection, The only path to Uh, being like Christ and being with Christ is the path that Christ takes. It's a path of suffering. We will inherit together with him and we will be glorified together with him since chapter 8, if we suffer with him first, And here.

He begins a passage. Our portion tonight, at least saying, and not only that, but we also glory in tribulations. A Christian's life is full of trouble. It's full of pain. It's full of difficult things that we cannot do.

It's full of persecutions, if you're gobbling. Everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus. Shall be persecuted. Says the scripture. It's not optional, it's not Um, It's not something that happens to some godly Christians.

And so, we will have tribulation But the way he says, it is not Is not merely that we will have tribulation but that we glory in tribulation It's the same word as rejoice in verse two. I'm not sure why they're translated differently in the two places. Through whom also, we have access by faith.

Into this grace in which we stand and glory in the hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory. In tribulations. It's a word that. Means to be. Full to bursting. Over something. Uh, fold to bursting with joy over something. It's a word that when you talk about yourself, Using this word, it's the opposite of Christianity.

Someone who is full of himself. We even have that way of talking, don't wait.

But here, what we are full of, or what, we are fold to bursting with joy over Is our troubles. Why? Do Christians like pain? Or should Christians like being No. He tells us why? Not only that but we also glory and tribulations knowing that tribulation produces perseverance or endurance.

You see, we're glorying in the fact that God is making us like Christ. Christ grew. Christ, grew and wisdom, and stature and favor with God, and with men, and he also had to grow in endurance Neither physically nor mentally emotionally. Was he did he have the endurance as a baby?

Or as a toddler. As he did, when he was an older boy and a man. We know that he grew Matthew 4, verses 1 through 4. And we know that. He endured the cross. And he endured the cross counting, the shame not worth considering he just buys the shame.

Considered it small by comparison. To the joy that was set before him. And so he rejoiced in the hope, Of leading us in. Praise of God.

So Christ himself, grew in endurance and so we must grow in endurance. Perhaps you have. You remember Hebrews 12 verse 2. For the joy set before him etc. But you might not remember that it comes immediately. After Hebrews 12 verse 1, Talking about how we Need to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily, entangles and run with what Run with endurance the race set before us.

Now, here's the Unpleasant thing about endurance. You cannot get it without pain. And you cannot get it without prolonged pain. Those of you who, Like to do distance running. There are some of you with that. Um, Who enjoy that? At least enjoy what comes from it. Probably enjoy it itself.

Here. You cannot increase endurance without being pushed. When you push a little harder and a little further every time, But it takes pain and prolonged pain to produce endurance. And yet if endurance is something that is part of being christ-like and if endurance is part of finishing your race in this life, Then you must have the pain, you must have.

The trouble. And so, This may sound obvious, but god grows us in endurance. By giving us things to endure. He goes on to tell us and hebrews chapter 12 and he's speaking on on the subject. That this is god, loving us. He chastens and scourges. The sun that he loves.

This is. After all, how the lord treated jacob, isn't it? We're going to Chapter 9 of this letter here. Jacob, i have loved. But he saw, i have hated. What were jacob and Esau's lives like You saw was successful at everything. He was a king of many clans before he died.

Was jacob's life. Like, do you remember in Genesis? Was one misery and hardship after another. In fact, one of the most difficult moments was when Esau with his 400, men was on his way to see jacob. And you remember, jacob coming up with his plan about how he's going to divide his family and he cries out to god.

And Do you remember? How God responded. He kept him up all night, took away his sleep. Wrestling him. Took away his strength, his energy. And then at the end of the night, crippled him, In response to. And as part of blessing him.

Yet. It was jacob that god loved and he saw that god, Hated. And right there, in hebrews, chapter 12 is The. The spirit is opening up for us. How god makes us to run endurance, how he produces in us holiness so that we will get to see god and love.

Seeing god, when we do see God, What does he say? It says, be careful that you don't. Think like, Esau Be careful that you not value over value. Painless moments and pleasant moments. And end up trading, an eternal weight of glory. For light and momentary pleasures. When the way the path to eternal weights of glory.

The eternal weight of glory is light and momentary afflictions. Which are only light and momentary compared to the eternal and weightiness of the glory.

And so, we glory in our tribulations just like, Second Corinthians 12:9. To which we've referred much recently. Well, we glory and weakness. Because when we are weak, then we are strong and we glory In troubles and tribulation. Because god is giving us endurance and endurance is necessary. And so, you can think about that the next time.

You are in a moment that is painful and it becomes not just a moment but a little bit longer and you want to cry out how long God is giving you an opportunity to grow and endurance. So glorian god's giving us endurance? But tribulation doesn't just produce perseverance or endurance.

Perseverance. Also produces. Uh, tribulation produces perseverance and perseverance produces character. Which is to say, Proven character. As you endure a little bit more and a little bit more. You know, whether you're a distance runner, or a distance swimmer, Whatever it is that you're learning to endure in. As you find yourself, able to bear.

A little bit more and go a little bit further. You realize that you are not quite where you were before. There's been a difference. In this, in this case, What your rejoicing over is. Uh, proven character. That whatever difference there is in you, as far as the production of this endurance, this Um, Willingness.

To go through the pain and consider it small by comparison to the glory of christ that is set in front of you. Now you may not have much of it, but whatever you have. It did not come from you. It didn't come from your flash. The desire that you have to value, god.

Above all else, the desire that you have to be rid of your sin. Whatever endurance you have in that direction. It came from him. And so proven character here is in part, focusing on the provenness of the character that we have a sample of something. Um, We have evidence of something, we'll come back to that in a moment.

But it's also. The nature of the character. What kind of character is it? It is christ's character that is being proven. That is being demonstrated in you. And so as we grow as believers, that we might make the mistake in thinking about this that What we are glorying over in, the tribulation is how much we've grown.

If we do that. Uh, we will be bent towards pride. Because there's much more left to grow. Whatever. Place you are. In your life. In your walk and your sanctification. There's much more left. To grow. Um, But when it describes proven character here or something that makes us glory in our tribulations, It's not so much because of how much we've grown.

So much as who it is, who is doing the growing? That. The reason we are not what we were. It's not because we're so close now to being what we ought to be. Or so close. Now, to be in what we will be. But because the one who is determined to make us like himself, Has produced.

Whatever difference there is in us now. And so perseverance. Proves out that christ is working in us. What that means has happened to us. Is that we've been? Resurrected already. We've had the first resurrection. Where you come to life and the lord jesus and you're no longer dead. My wife.

Snapped a photo. A week ago or so, maybe a little bit more or less. It was just not very many days after. It had frozen so hard. And a couple of couple of warm days. And up came daffodil, stems. In the flower bed. Dead flowers. Don't grow. So, it was Proof of life.

Well, when a believer grows and endurance, There's proof of life. And the life that didn't come from us a life. That came from him. What that means. Is that something has happened to us? I have a son who is Um, Working on perfect verbs. Uh, in In his grammar right now.

And so there's a past, perfect. It has happened to us. We've been regenerated. If you're growing and endurance, then you see something that isn't present participle. It is happening to us. But, As we saw last week and considering Romans 8 and those whom he justified he also glorified. There's also the future.

Perfect isn't there? And that's where perfect actually becomes perfect. What will have happened to us? You see what has happened to you. If you're a Christian, if you're a believer in the lord jesus is you have been made alive. What is happening to it to us? Is that we are being made holy and part of that is we are being given endurance and what will have happened to us.

Is that we will have been made perfect in holiness. We will have been fully conformed. To the lord jesus christ. And what growth you see? You can go the other way, can't you? If you're thinking about how much you've grown, We set a moment ago that That may tend towards project may also tend towards humiliating discouragement, if you're honest, about how much you've grow.

By comparison to how much there is to grow. And yet. We ought not despise the day of small things. If those small things are things. That come in a grace that will have been. Perfected. And so proven character, and that leads us of course, into hope, We glory in our tribulation.

Because tribulation produces perseverance. Perseverance. Produces proven character. And proven character. Produces hope. And in this case, The hope is not. Uh, necessarily more anticipation. Of the glory of god. Uh the rejoice in the hope of glory of the glory of god that we saw in verse 2, it is actually the beginning of the appearance of the thing hooked for As we have this.

Proven character that comes out of our endurance as we start to glimpse more christ-likeness in ourselves. We are glimpsing something that actually belongs to the hoped for thing. However, sanctified you are Though, it be small. It is part of the holiness that you will still have in the last day.

The work that the lord is doing in you now. Christian is real work. And it is a small part. Of that holiness that you will have in the day that you are glorified with the lord jesus. And so, We're not just anticipating what he will have perfectly done. We actually have some of it already.

We actually have some love for the lord, some delight in him. Some obedience of him. It is as it were an earnest a down payment of heaven. As you grow in grace. Now, you don't look at it and, and And see the The holiness of an angel or the holiness.

Of the god, man. Not in fullness, not in perfection. You do have. Some of it, you have a piece of it.

It's like a Child. Who knows that? He's going to have a great inheritance. Is inheriting. Smogs. Treasure trove. He's been given a coin. A bit. And you can carry that coin around. And he knows this is a real part. Of the treasure. All that wealth is as good as his.

That's the way the The hope is working out here. Now we'll will we come into the rest of the treasure? That's the question. The answer is, of course. The hope that we have verse 5. As hope that does not disappoint. Because the love of god, Has been poured out in our hearts, by the holy spirit.

Who has given to us. You see? When we when we glory and tribulation because it produces perseverance that produces character that produces hope and we're seeing that hope as a sample, a piece of the hoped for thing. It reminds us. Where it came from. The reason you and i Have faith in christ at all.

If you have faith in christ, the reason believers have any endurance at all, any delight in god at all? Is because god from all eternity. Decided that it would, please him to give that to us. He is the one who seeks. What this saying here is that hope does not disappoint because the source of it.

Has been revealed to us. There are three gifts here. The gift of god's electing love from before the world began the second. The gift of the holy spirit. The third person of the godhead. One.

Who? The. The third person of the god, did the holy spirit who is as it were for us witness to the eternal electing love of god because he is god.

He has been given to us and what does he do? He gives us in the third place then to know the love of god. And the, the word here is, Quite literally, effusive It's gushing. The word pouring here describes. An indiscriminate. Just pouring out on onto a surface. That's why they use the word port and the translation.

The differences. It's in exhaustible. It's word that is used for. The. The gushing out of wine of the burst wine skin. Or. Um,

We won't. Well. That now we must or the The gushing out of. Entrails intestines at one point in the scripture, just Uh, is intended to be very graphic and the bursting forth the unrestrained bursting forth. The holy spirit when he comes. And he shows us the love of god, he He is not stingy with it.

He makes us to know that god has loved us with an electing adopting. Love from before the world began that the love of god is what has determined to create has determined to redeem And he's about to talk about the greatest demonstration of that love in verse 8. That while we were sinners christ died for us.

And so, The reason you are different than you were. You are not what you were if you're a believer. Goes back into eternity. He goes back into God himself. And it is god, who has come? And, Uh, made that knowledge to burst over and cover. Every part. Of your heart.

Perhaps the Old translation, set abroad. The love of god has been shut abroad in our hearts. By the holy spirit who has given to us. Might help us there. This is. Uh, Of knowledge of god's love that invades every thought Of the believer. The that everything we think about needs to be informed by, and the holy spirit makes us to know it.

In the context of God making us to know his own love.

When we learn to rejoice over god himself, Or to desire that we would rejoice over god himself more. Than anything else. Then when he brings us into tribulation, We don't say. Well, god will work even this out for good. We say this, tribulation Is good for the sake of what god is working through it.

Don't know if you've ever. Um, Tried to have an all things for good. Uh, Conversation with someone who doesn't value. God and enjoying him and his glory. Uh, over all things. And so, when they say all things for good, they mean well maybe god made me late so that i wouldn't get into a car accident Well, sometimes, when god is working, all things for good for a believer.

He makes sure that the believer is right on time for the car accident. Because the car accident. Is a means by which the Lord gives him. Endurance. And as he Suffers with. His injuries. He realizes that god is worth more to him. Than having a whole body. And not having pain.

And he realizes. That that valuing of god. Didn't come from him. It came from christ. And then he realizes. That the reason. That he has this from christ. Is that god is determined has been determined in himself from himself to love him since before the world began.

The lord gave it to him by means of The car accident.

Car wreck. Southern word is more. Providentially, correct? It's not an accident.

And so, when we talk about, All things for good, we mean All things have been designed. To bring us to enjoy the glory of god. That's the good in Romans 8:28. It doesn't mean slightly improved earthly circumstances for a little while. It means those whom he justified, he also glorified Because he had formed them.

So if we are believers in jesus christ, And if we have been taught by the holy spirit, too, Rejoice in the hope with the glory of god. Let us seek that the holy spirit would teach us also. To glory in our tribulations. To see our father. Giving us endurance.

As part of that holiness. That we will need if we will see them. And if we will enjoy seeing it,