

“The Path Of The Just”
Romans 5:3-5

Introduction:

1. **IE:** When I Was A Boy - I Was Always Looking For A Deal! I Guess, I Still Am Today - But Not In The Same Ways! Whenever We Went, As A Family, To A Fair - Or - Out In Colorado - To The Rodeo - There Were These Exhibits Where You Could Enter A Drawing For Some Prize You Could Win - For Free! Now, You Can't Get A Better Deal Than That As A Boy!
 - As We Walked Through The Exhibits, My Brother And I, Would Enter As Many Drawings As Possible! It Didn't Matter What The Prize Was! Sometimes We Put Our Name Down More Than Once - Maybe Even More Than Twice!
 - Well - One Day - My Dad Got A Call - And - Instead Of Getting In Trouble For All Of Our Entries, It Turned Out - My Brother Actually Won One Of Those Drawings! It Was A Video Camera - Which - Back In The 1980's - Was A Pretty Big Deal!
 - When We Finally Got The Prize Home, And Opened The Box, We Were Even More Surprised At The Package! Not Only Was There The Camera, There Was A Small TV As Well! In Addition To That, There Were All Kinds Of Accessories For The Camera Too! And - All That - For Free!
 - What A Deal!
2. Well - As We Head Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Romans 5 - We Are Going To Find:
 - That The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is An Even **Greater** Deal:
 - For Those Who Believe!
 - Because - When We Come To Verse 3:
 - It Begins Originally With These Words:
 - “Not Only, But Also!”
 - Now - That Phrase Is Chopped Up A Bit:
 - In Our Translations:
 - But - Just Think About The Kind Of Gospel:
 - The Kind Of Good News:
 - We Have In Jesus Christ!
 - It Is A:
 - “Not Only, But Also” Kind Of Gospel!
 - It Is The Kind That:
 - Keeps On Giving & Giving & Giving Again!
 - The Blessing Of The Gospel:
 - Is Not Only An Extensive Blessing:
 - It Is Also An Expansive Blessing:
 - For Those Who Have Been Justified By Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ!
3. Even As We Are Told:
 - In Proverbs 4:18 - Which Says:
 - “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day!”
 - This Is What We Find Taking Place:
 - In The Verses We Come To Next In Romans 5 – Verses 3-5!
 - But - I Would Like For Us To Read:
 - The First Two Verses Along With Them:
 - Romans 5:1-5 - “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: / By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. / And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; / And patience, experience; and experience, hope: / And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us!”
 - Last Week - We Looked At:
 - Three Results – Three Blessings Every Christian Receives:
 - When They Are Justified By Faith:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - The Blessing:
 - Of Accord & Peace With God!

- The Blessing:
 - Of Access To God! And:
 - The Blessing:
 - Of Anticipation & Hope:
 - “Of The Glory Of God!”
 - And - You Receive All Of These Blessings:
 - By Faith - In Christ - Alone!
 - Now - If These Were All Of The Blessings Contained In The Gospel:
 - It Would Be The Best Deal You Would Ever Find!
4. But - Remember - According To 5:3:
- There Is Even More To The Gospel:
 - Than Just Your Standing Before God!
 - It's A - “Not Only, But Also” Kind Of Gospel!
 - “Not Only” Do You Receive:
 - Peace & Access & Hope:
 - “But Also” - You Receive:
 - As We Find In The First Part Of 5:3:

1. *An Even Greater Acclaim!*

- 5:3a - “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also!”
 - Now - At First Glance - It Seems Like:
 - The Benefits & The Blessings:
 - Contained In The Gospel:
 - Come To A Screeching Halt!
 - Because - Paul Uses The Same Word:
 - Here - To “Glory” - As He Did:
 - In 5:2 - When He Said:
 - We “Rejoice / Glory / Exult In Hope Of The Glory Of God!”
 - Now - It Makes Sense:
 - That We Can Glory In & Rejoice In:
 - What We Will Experience One Day In Heaven:
 - As Christians!
 - But - What's This:
 - About - Glorifying “In Tribulations Also?”
 - That Doesn't Sound Like:
 - Such A Great Deal After All!
 - Especially When You Think About:
 - All Of The Other Times In The New Testament:
 - Where We Are Told To Even:
 - **Expect** Tribulations & Afflictions & Pressures:
 - In Our Lives As Christians!
 - In Acts 14:22 - The Apostle Paul Taught:
 - That - “We Must Through Much Tribulation Enter Into The Kingdom Of God!”
 - In 1 Peter 4:12 - The Apostle Peter Teaches Us:
 - “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you!”
 - And - In John 16:33 - Our Lord Jesus Even Taught:
 - That - “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world!”
 - But - As We Come Back To Romans - It Is Even:
 - In Our Afflictions:
 - That We Can Glory & Rejoice As Christians!
 - Whether Those Afflictions & Pressures:
 - Are Common Problems:
 - That We All Face As Humans!
 - Or - Even If Those Afflictions:
 - Are The Unique Persecutions:
 - That You May Face As A Christian!
 - Even As Paul Told Timothy:

- In 2 Timothy 3:12 - “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution!”
- Yet - Even In Those Afflictions:
 - You Can Rejoice!
 - But Why? And How? Because You Go Through Them:
- In Our Awareness:
 - Of What God Is Doing:
 - In And Through:
 - Your Problems & Your Pain!
 - You Can “Glory” In Them:
 - Because You “Know” Something About Them!
 - Now - There Are Different Ways:
 - To “Know” Something - Aren’t There?
 - You Can Know Something:
 - Based On Your Education!
 - It Was Something That Was Taught To You!
 - And - Hopefully - It Was Something You Were Able To Grasp!
 - You Can Know Something:
 - Based On Your Experience!
 - When You Learn Things:
 - As You Go! Sometimes - This Is The Hard Way - Isn’t It?
 - You Can Also Know Something:
 - Based On Your Examples!
 - Through What Others Have Gone Through!
 - But - When You Learn Something & Know Something:
 - Based On All Of These Ways:
 - Your Knowledge Will Be:
 - A Certain Knowledge!
- And - This Is Why You - As A Christian:
 - Can “Glory In Tribulations Also!”
 - It’s Because You Now Know Something:
 - About Those Tribulations!
 - Based On Your Education:
 - Through God’s Word!
 - Based On Your Experience:
 - In Life! And:
 - Based On Your Examples:
 - Of Other Believers & Especially The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Who - According To Hebrews 12:2 - “For the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God!”
- So Now - You Too:
 - Can Experience A Greater Joy & A Greater Acclaim:
 - Even Through The Trials & The Tribulations:
 - Of Life! Because:
 - As You Go Through Them:
 - You Know That God Is Working Out:

2. ***An Even Greater Advancement!***

- 5:3 - “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience!”
 - Yes - As A Christian - Even Your “Tribulation Worketh Patience!”
 - The Word “Worketh” Here Is:
 - A Construction Word!
 - It Shows Us That God Is At Work In Your Life:
 - Even In & Especially Through Your Afflictions As A Christian!
- For Something To Be “Worked Out” - It Means:
 - That There’s A Plan!
 - **IE:** Working On Our Bathroom - To Renovate - First Step - Have A Plan!
 - So It Is With The Trials Of Your Faith!

- God Has A Plan! And - That Plan:
 - Is A Good Plan & The Right Plan!
- And - What Is God's Plan?
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17 - "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!"
 - Know This! Believe This!
- Also - For Something To Be Worked Out - It Means:
 - That There's A Process!
 - **IE**: Unfortunately - For Any Renovation Project - It Takes Time, Effort & Money! It's A Process!
 - This Is Why - James Writes Nearly The Same Thing - In James 1:3-4:
 - "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. / But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing!"
 - God Has Both A Plan & A Process:
 - For The Trials You May Be Going Through!
 - And His Process:
 - Is Both A Good Process & The Right Process!
 - Know This! Believe This!
- But Also - For Something To Be Worked Out Means:
 - That There Will Eventually Be A Performance:
 - And A Completion Of That Work!
 - **IE**: Which Is Why You Start A Renovation Project To Begin With!
 - So It Is With The Trials Of Your Faith!
 - Remember Philippians 1:6?
 - "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!"
 - God Will Perform & One Day Complete:
 - The "Good Work" He Has "Begun - In You!"
- And So - You Can Know:
 - That Whatever Trial Or Tribulation:
 - You May Be Going Through:
 - Right Now - It "Worketh" - It:
 - Is Working Out & Producing "Patience" In Your Heart & In Your Life!
 - This "Patience" Is:
 - A Divinely-Wrought Perseverance!
 - Now - We All Know That:
 - "Tribulations" Do Not Always Bring About Patience And Perseverance!
 - They Can Also Bring About:
 - Frustration & Discouragement & Despair!
 - But - The Difference Is The Word:
 - "We" - In 5:3!
 - When You Stand Before God:
 - Justified!
 - With An Eternal Peace & Access & Hope:
 - You Don't Have To **Wilt**:
 - Under The Pressures Of This Fallen World!
 - Nor Will You Just:
 - Passively **Wait**:
 - For Those Storms To Pass On Through!
 - But Instead - God Will Strengthen You!
 - So That You Can:
 - Keep On **Wading** Through:
 - The Waters That May Feel Like A Flood Around You!
 - As Another Anne Murphy Once Wrote:
 - "There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave, / A peace it cannot take away; / Tho' the trials of life may surround like a cloud, / I've a peace that has come there to stay!"
 - And That's A Good Deal!
 - But - That's Not All!

- God Has An Even Greater Plan For You!

3. ***An Even Greater Assurance!***

- Because - Look At What That Patience & Perseverance:
 - Is Working Out In Your Heart & Life:
 - 5:4a - “And Patience, Experience!”
 - The Word Translated “Experience” Here & “Character” In Other Translations:
 - Means Something That Has Been Tested & Tried & Proven!
 - **IE:** Like All The Tests & Trials That Are Going On - To Find Treatments & Vaccines That Will Work For This Coronavirus! Eventually, There Will Be Clinical Trials - Where Scientists Will Experiment On People! Some May Already Be Taking Place! But - When Those Tests Yield Positive Results - Then That Drug Or Vaccine Can Be “Approved” By The FDA!
 - This Is What A God-Enabled Perseverance Will Yield As Well!
 - A Greater Assurance:
- Of God’s Favor!
 - And That You **Do** Belong To God!
 - This Is One Of Those Surprise Deals:
 - In A Christian’s Suffering!
 - Instead Of Proving That God Hates You – As He Helps You Through, He Reveals More & More That He Loves You!
 - In Hebrews 12:5-7 - We Are Told:
 - “My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: / For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. / If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”
 - So - Even When Our Trials:
 - Are Part Of God’s Work Of Chastening:
 - It Is Working Out An Even Greater Assurance Of God’s Favor!
 - But - Even More:
- Of God’s Faithfulness!
 - What Paul Tells Us:
 - About The Temptations You Face:
 - Is Also True:
 - About The Tribulation You Face!
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 - “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it!”
 - This Is Part Of:
 - That “Perfect Work” That God Is Doing:
 - In Your Heart & Life:
 - If You Belong To Him Today!
 - If You Have Been Justified By Faith!
 - But - Remember - Our Faith:
 - Is A “Not Only, But Also” Kind Of Faith!
 - So - Even Through This:
 - God Further Provides:

4. ***An Even Greater Anticipation!***

- Which Is What We Find In The Rest Of:
 - 5:4b - “And Experience / Character / An Assured Approval From God – Is Working Out – Hope!”
 - The Same Hope That We Find:
 - In 5:2 - The “Hope Of The Glory Of God!”
 - So - Even When You Are Going Through:
 - Difficult Times In Your Life:
 - You Can Find:
- The Potential Of Greater Hope!
 - I Hope You Can See Today:
 - That There Is Potential:

- In Every Trial & In Every Tribulation & Even In Every Temptation:
 - To Bring Greater Hope:
 - In The Prospect Of The Future Glory Of God!
- To Both **See** God's Glory:
 - And - To Even **Share** In God's Glory!
 - One Day!
 - Isn't This Why:
 - The Apostle John Cried Out:
 - In Revelation 22:20 - "Even So, Come, Lord Jesus!"
 - Isn't This Why:
 - The Apostle Peter Wrote:
 - In 2 Peter 3:13 - "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness!"
 - Isn't This Why:
 - We Can Say Today:
 - "Make Haste" – O Lord!
 - For "We Have Waited For You!"
- The Seed Of This Hope:
 - Is Planted In Your Heart:
 - At The Moment Of Your Salvation & Your Justification Before God!
 - But - The Anticipation:
 - Grows And Builds:
 - Even As You Undergo Trials And Tribulations - And:
 - Receive God's Strength To Persevere!
 - And - With This Anticipation - You Can Also Experience:
- The Power Of Greater Hope!
 - 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed!"
 - As A Christian - Being Justified By Faith:
 - You Will Never Be Ashamed:
 - And - You Will Never Be:
 - Disappointed - In The Hope Of God's Promises & Glory!
 - Because - One Day:
 - Your Faith Will Be Made Sight!
 - And - God Will Prove Your Hope:
 - To Be True - Against All Of The Mocking & Ridicule & Persecution:
 - Of This Unbelieving World!
 - Remember Noah?
 - For 100 Years He Built An Ark!
 - For 100 Years He Preached:
 - Righteousness In The Midst Of An Ungodly World!
 - More Than Likely:
 - He Experienced Mocking & Ridicule:
 - By Those Who Refused To Believe!
 - But - In The End - His Hope:
 - In The Promise & In The Provision Of God's Salvation:
 - For Him & For All Of His Family:
 - Did Not Disappoint! He Was Not Ashamed!
 - Even So - Your Hope:
 - In The Promises & In The Provision:
 - Of God's Salvation:
 - Forged In The Fires Of Tribulation And Affliction:
 - Will Never Disappoint!
 - Because - "He Is Faithful That Promised!" (Hebrews 10:23)
 - And - Because:

Conclusion:

1. 5:5b - "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us!"
 - The Love Of God:

- Is The Resource That He Provides:
 - To Help You Through:
 - Your Afflictions:
 - Whatever They May Be!
- 2. **IE:** When Corrie ten Boom And Her Family Were Arrested For Helping Jews Escape The Great Holocaust That Awaited Them At The Hands Of The Nazis - She And Her Sister, Betsy, Were Taken To The Same Prison Camp – The Infamous Ravensbruck Concentration Camp In Germany! Imagine The Great Afflictions & Sufferings They Both Saw And Experienced There!
 - But - It Was There - Where Betsy - As She Neared Her Own Death From Sickness And Privation - Stirred Corrie’s Own Heart With These Words Of Faith And Hope:
 - “There Is No Pit So Deep, That God’s Love Is Not Deeper Still!”
 - This Reflected:
 - An Inner Experience:
 - Of The “Love Of God” That Had Been:
 - And Was Being:
 - “Shed Abroad” - Literally - “Poured Out” - Into Betsy’s Heart!
- 3. You See:
 - The Hope That You Have:
 - As A Christian - This:
 - “Hope Of The Glory Of God” - Is Not Something:
 - You Have To Wait For:
 - Until The End!
 - No - There Are Great Deposits Being Made:
 - Of God’s Own Love:
 - To Further Promote & To Advance:
 - Your Hope!
 - So That - As We Read In:
 - Ephesians 3:18-19 - You - “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; / And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God!”
 - 4. And - God Provides His Love:
 - Through His Own Holy Spirit:
 - Who Is Present With You:
 - Through It All!
 - And - This Is:
 - As We Read Earlier - From Proverbs 4:18:
 - “The Path Of The Just!” - Which Is:
 - “As the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day!”
 - 5. So - As Great As:
 - The Benefits & Blessings:
 - Of Your Justification Already Are:
 - There Is Still Room For Those Blessings:
 - To Grow!
 - Your Salvation:
 - Is A “Not Only, But Also” Kind:
 - Of Salvation!
 - So That - Even Through:
 - Suffering & Affliction:
 - You Can Experience:
 - Greater Acclaim!
 - Greater Advancement!
 - Greater Assurance!
 - Greater Anticipation!
 - Because Of The Greatness:
 - Of God’s Own Love:
 - Being - “Shed Abroad In Your Heart!”
 - 6. Now - That’s Not Just A **Good** Deal:
 - That’s The **Best** Deal:

- Of All!

- * Are You Experiencing The Love Of God In Your Life Today?
- * Do You See How God Is At Work - Even Through Your Trials?
- * Remember - "There Is No Pit So Deep, That God's Love Is Not Deeper Still!"

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