

## Studies in Romans

### A Hope That Does Not Disappoint (5:3-5)

#### Context

- **1:1-17 Introduction**
- **1:18-4:25 The problem and God's solution**
  - 1:18-3:20 The problem: God's wrath at our unrighteousness
  - 3:21-4:25 God's solution: justification by faith
- **5:1-8:39 What it means to be justified by faith**
  - 5:1-11 If we are justified, we will be saved from God's wrath
  - 5:12-21 Through His death, Christ has established a realm of righteousness, which will supersede the realm of sin and death (established by Adam) in which all mankind naturally lives.

If we have been justified by faith...then our salvation is complete and nothing/no one can ever rob us of it...

*According to v. 2, what is the final "end" of our salvation?*

*What "benefits" of being justified by faith does Paul mention in vv. 1-2?*

#### Trials and tribulations

Troubles and trials tend to intensify our expectation of glory that's to come. Note how Paul continues in **verse 3**. The Christian may ask: "What about the here and now? How will God make us holy? How will He make us godly? What about the trials and tribulations that we're going through right now?"

*What is Paul's answer?*

#### 1. Realize that troubles will come...

Beware of the shallow kind of "Christianity" that gives the impression that Jesus will take all problems away. Even worse, beware of the "health and wealth" gospel that says it is impossible (or sinful) for the Christian to be sick or in financial need or in any kind of trouble. Yes, we have victory over every problem, that is for sure! But God can give us that victory either by taking the problem away in his time, or by:

See also **2 Corinthians 12:7-10; John 16:33; Acts 14:22** and **2 Tim. 3:12**.

#### 2. We are able to \_\_\_\_\_ in tribulations!

Note that we rejoice because there is something that we know. *What is it that we know?* See also **James 1:2**.

#### 3. Our troubles lead us to a godly life.

*(According to our text) how do our troubles lead us to be more godly?*

*What is this "perseverance?"*

"You never develop this determination to press on with God until you have a few troubles and testings."

*What does Paul mean by "character"?*

What then is it that we know which helps us rejoice in trouble rather than grumble and complain or even accuse God?

The answer is given in three effects that troubles have on God's people:

Effect #1 (**verse 3b**):

Effect #2 (**verse 4a**):

Effect #3 (**verse 4b**):

## **A hope that does not disappoint**

Paul says in **v. 5** that this hope we have doesn't disappoint. *Why?*

There is an experience in the Christian's heart that keeps his hope flourishing and prevents his expectations of glory from withering. *What is it?*

Note the beautiful trio of sisters: faith, hope and love. See also **1 Cor. 13:13** and **1 Thess. 1:3**.

One of the threats to our assurance is that our faith might not be real. How do you know your faith is real? Well, troubles come *and you are able to persevere*.

- 1. Note that this experience of the love of God is poured out how?**
- 2. This experience is based on real objective facts.**

## **For further discussion**

(Perhaps choose one or more to think about further or to discuss in a group)

- *How does tonight's passage challenge our reactive to the suffering that we encounter?*
- *How can this passage help us avoid the shallow hope that we will immediately be able to see the point of some suffering (usually we won't), but we will begin to grasp what God is doing in us through suffering.*
- *How can this passage help challenge us to avoid a shallow "glory now" kind of Christianity (health, wealth and prosperity) and also a too simple "suffering now—glory later" kind of formula. In other words, certainly, there is "suffering now—glory later"...but there's more to it than that! Discuss the deep process of change going on in us, who are being changed inside by God.*