

REJOICING IN SUFFERING

Romans 5:3-10

INTRODUCTION

- A. Last week we looked at the first stage of Christian growth – rejoicing in hope.
 - 1. Rejoicing, not only in the good times, but also in the bad.
 - 2. Paul continues in Romans 5:3-5.
- B. Christians are expected to experience suffering, Phil. 1:29.
 - 1. Paul tells us to rejoice in tribulation or sufferings.
 - 2. The word literally means “*a pressing pressure – anything which burdens the spirit.*”
 - a. A word to describe the pressing oil from olives or juice from grapes.
 - b. It is the idea of “*trouble that inflicts distress.*”
 - c. Paul after his stoning, Acts 14:19-22.

I. UNANIMOUS TESTIMONY.

- A. Peter. 1 Peter 4:12-13 (*exultation is boasting!*)
- B. James. Jas. 1:2-4
- C. Jesus. Mt. 5:11-12; John 16:33.
- D. So, what does Paul mean in Romans 5?
 - 1. What he doesn't mean:
 - a. Not a “grin and bear it” attitude. “Have to.”
 - b. Not a command to enjoy the pain.
 - c. Not to pretend that we're happy, Heb. 12:11.

II. WHAT PAUL MEANS.

- A. “*...because we know that suffering produces...*”
 - 1. Perseverance. To be patient, long suffering, 1 Pet. 2:20.
 - a. It is remaining constant and firm no matter the situation.
 - b. It is what Jesus did in going to the cross, 1 Pet. 2:21-24.
 - c. Peter says, you do the same!
 - 2. Proven Character. Literally, “experience.”
 - a. The idea of having stood the test.
 - i. College – tests, papers, knowing what is beyond.
 - ii. Pain of childbirth – looking to beyond.
 - b. Have we forgotten that God is in the business of making veterans.
 - 1. 2 Cor. 1:8-11.
 - ii. Heb. 5:13-14 – maturing in Christ (through practice).
 - 3. Hope. And now we have circled back to verse 2. 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - a. Paul began with rejoicing in hope (vs. 2) and ends with hope (vs. 5).
- B. “*Hope does not disappoint us,*” vs. 5.
 - 1. Based on the promises of God.
 - a. Promises that are sure, 2 Cor. 1:20.
 - b. He will never forsake us, Heb. 13:5-6.
 - c. Not tempted beyond what we can bear, 1 Cor. 10:13.
 - i. Prayer, Scripture, knowledge of Spirit within, fellowship,...
 - d. Things work together for good, Rom. 8:28.

2. How does hope not disappoint?
 - a. “Disappoint” is to “make ashamed,” Rom. 1:16.
 - b. Verses 5-10 tells us how to rejoice in suffering.
 - a. The secret is seeing our suffering as evidence of God’s love, not His wrath.
 - b. We see two things in suffering:
 - i. Our helplessness, vs. 6.
 - ii. God’s love, vs. 8.
3. Suffering doesn’t come because of God’s anger but because of His love. He trains me through suffering.

CLOSING

- A. Growing as a Christian:
 1. Rejoicing in hope.
 2. Rejoicing in suffering.
- B. Are you growing in the Lord?
 1. How do you respond to the suffering in our world?
 2. Are we giving God the glory?