

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
17 February 2019
Romans 5:1-3 (KJV)

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; (Rom. 5:1-3 KJV)

Access to God's Favour

(1) Access to God's Favour

Romans 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Our salvation in Christ brings us access to God's unfailing and inexhaustible favour. This blessing of God's grace is appropriated by faith. And this blessed standing before God begins when we become a child of God and continues forever! It is mind boggling as we are brought to the realisation of this great privilege we have in Christ. This access for the believer is by way of prayer to the Father in heaven in the name of Jesus Christ. Whenever we have any need, we can call to the Father in heaven to supply and He hearkens to our cry each time. The psalmist testified how he loved his LORD who has been his ready helper.

Psalm 116:1-10 *I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. 3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. 4 Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. 5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. 6 The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. 7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. 8 For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. 9 I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. 10 I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:*

Truly, we have a great God in Jesus Christ whom we can through life's pathway. Have you any need? Do take time to call upon the Lord.

(2) Hope of the Glory of God

Romans 5:2 *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

The child of God is confident of his good standing before God through Jesus Christ. He has assurance in his heart that God will always do him good. As Solomon testified in **Proverbs 10:22** *The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.* The richness of spiritual blessings in Christ is to be experienced on earth, here and now, but the best is yet to come. The splendour and beauty of blessings in heaven cannot be fully comprehended. When we travel to different places, we marvel at the beauty of God's creation. This will pale to the glories of heaven. God would give us a supernatural body to enjoy the perfect splendour of heaven in eternity. We cannot fully fathom this great privilege now. We catch glimpses of it through the eyes of Scripture. This is the third blessing of being a child of God. Greater blessing is yet future and this is a sure hope!

Saved by Grace

*Someday the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But O joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!*

Chorus

*And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story – Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story Saved by grace.*

May the meditation upon this third blessing bringing you great encouragement to press on in life.

(3) Glory in Tribulation

Romans 5:3 *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

The fourth blessing of being a child of God is that we can face trials in life with courage and strength. Be assured that we are not struggling alone but God is with us.

Jesus gave these words of encouragement to His disciples before He went to the cross in **John 16:33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

The word "tribulation" means "being pressed to a breaking point". The trials in the believer's life can be so overwhelming, but Jesus assured His disciples to take courage

and be confident and rest in the truth that He is with them to help them overcome and have victory.

Therefore, in the believer's heart, there is peace, a quiet confidence that with Christ he will yet triumph. There is an interesting illustration called "Two Pictures" that help illustrates that restfulness or peace that Jesus gives:

Two painters each painted a picture to illustrate his concept of rest. The first chose for his scene a still, lone lake among far-off mountains. The second threw on his canvas a thundering waterfall, with a fragile birch tree bending over the foam; at the fork of a branch, almost wet with the cataract's spray, a robin sat on its nest. The first was only Stagnation; the last was Rest. For in rest, there are two elements—tranquillity and energy; silence and turbulence; creation and destruction; fearfulness and fearlessness.[Drummond]

The believer is able to glory in tribulation, to not be afraid of trials and not buckle under its pressure because of God's assured help for His children.

(4) Tribulation Produces Steadfast Endurance

Romans 5:3 *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

In the Christian's life, we are to expect tribulation. Troubles, sufferings, tears, affliction and distress are a part of this earthly life. We cannot avoid it. It is allowed by God in His sovereign will to mould us that it may bring forth godly virtues.

One of the fruits of tribulation is that it produces this spiritual fruit called patience. Tribulation builds Christian character. We do not welcome tribulation, humanly speaking. As we think of the emotion, mental, physical suffering that it brings, often we shudder. We look at the life of those who went through tribulation, we acknowledge it is tough going.

The word "patience" describes a bearing up under, patience, endurance as to things or circumstances that seemed overbearing. It can mean a prolonged sickness, having to care for a loved who is not well, loss of job, harsh working conditions. While we are, under those circumstances, we struggle.

The Christian virtue of patience describes perseverance, of steadfast endurance. Not giving up in adversity. The book of psalms is the Bible's prayer book. It describes the many struggles of the psalmist through the vicissitudes of life. How he overcame and had victory through these prolonged hours of tribulation is meaningful study. The

overarching lesson is to trust God though there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel. This is a chorus for your encouragement.

Only Jesus, Only Jesus

Only Jesus, only Jesus

Only He can satisfy

All my burdens are turned to blessings

When I know my Lord is nigh.

If you are going through some affliction, may this chorus encourage your heart to keep trusting the Lord. Amen.