

REJOICING IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE
Romans 5:3-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has written of the rejoicing we have when we consider our hope in God.
 - 1) Our future is a glorious future!
 - 2) We shall see Him, and know Him.
- B. But what about the present?
 - 1) Shall we be morose and bitter?
 - 2) Is His grace sufficient for this life?
 - 3) Can faith affect our present life?
 - 4) vs. 2c - ".....and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

I. Glorifying in Time of Trouble vs. 3

- A. "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also:"
 - 1) "And not only do we rejoice in the Lord when we consider our future glory."
 - 2) "glory" = kauchaomai = "to speak loud", "to be loud tongued"
"boast or vaunt one's self"
 - 3) "tribulation" = thlipsis = "pressure", "compression"
"pressured by evils", "when we are in the Devil's pressure cooker" We can praise Him as loudly as when we are being blessed of God.
- B. Bible Examples
 - 1) Job 1:21 - "...The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."
Job 1:22 - "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (attributed folly to God)
 - 2) Acts 5:40-41 - (Peter and the other Apostles before the council.) 5:40-42
 - 3) We often wonder what the "prosperity gospel" preachers would have done!

II. The Basis of Glorifying in Tribulation vs. 3

- A. "Knowing that tribulation worketh patience" vs. 3
 - 1) "knowing" = oida = "I have seen or perceived, therefore I know."
 - 2) "tribulation" = thlipsis = "pressure", "trouble"
 - 3) "worketh" = katergazomai = "to work", "down", "to effect", "to achieve"
 - 4) "patience" = upomone = "a remaining under", "a bearing up under", "patient endurance", "holding out"

- B. "And patience, experience;" vs. 4
- 1) "patience" = (see A-4)
 - 2) "experience" = dokime = "proof", "trial", "having been tried", "the proven character", "the quality of being approved as a result of a test"
 - 3) Testing lets us know we can stand the test, something you would not know without testing.
- C. "and experience, hope"
- 1) "experience" = dokime = (see B-2)
 - 2) "hope" = elpis = "expectation of something future", "well-grounded"
 - 3) When we are tested and we endure the testing and know we "passed" it then our hope is even more well-grounded and joyous.

III. This King of Well-Grounded Hope Will Never Disappoint Us
vs. 5

- A. "And hope maketh not ashamed"
- 1) "hope" = elpis
 - 2) "ashamed" = kataischuno = "to put to shame", "to dishonour", "to disgrace"
 - 3) This kind of hope will never disappoint you or leave you open to embarrassment by others. You can depend on it!
- B. "because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."
- 1) The love we have for God as we perceive His love for us sustains this hope.
 - 2) "shed abroad" = ekchuno = "to pour out", "to diffuse", This word denotes abundance. It is properly applied to water. It means communicating freely and abundantly.
 - 3) It is produced by the Holy Spirit of God. It is of His doing and it is His gift to us.
 - 4) "given" = didomi = "to give", "to present" The idea of giving freely, unforced.