

Parson to Person

ROMANS 5 PART 2

“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:23–25 NKJV).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation” (Romans 5:1–11 NKJV).

When the revelation of God’s holy hatred for sin becomes clear to an individual, the joy of knowing that we have been justified by faith alone carries new meaning. As enemies of God, we were children of wrath—due a punishment we can scarcely imagine. However, as believers, we have peace with God and thus can rest assured that God is no longer angry with us. His wrath has been satisfied in Jesus! This peace translates from a properly held fear of God to a genuine desire to see Him in all of His glory—and thus, *“we rejoice in the glory of God.”*

The glory referred to herein speaks of the splendor and majesty of God. No one who can say “we rejoice in the glory, the majesty, or the splendor of God” is afraid to be in His presence, but rather, longs for His presence. Likewise, and for this reason, John said, *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:18–19 NKJV). The one who rejoices in the presence of God is the one who has come to understand His love—and therefore the peace of knowing him.

This being understood, Paul seems to jump subjects with no rationale or reason behind it. However, the jump is appropriate. Paul is saying that we who have peace with God—we who were once properly terrified of Him—should now be able to endure any trial, persecution, etc., without fear. Therefore, we *“glory in tribulations.”* Moreover, the English language does us no favors here, for the word Paul used to signify glory in verse 2 (splendor and majesty, Gk: *doxa*) and the glory now referenced here in verse 3 (Gk: *kauchaomai*) have entirely different meanings. Here in verse 3 the Greek indicates boasting, a high degree of confidence, and thus a testifying to what one glories in. As a result, Paul’s message in verse 3 can be said to carry a two-fold meaning:

- 1) A genuine confidence in the fact that God is on our side, will sustain us, will deliver us, and safely get us through whatever we may face.
- 2) A declaration of the hope we have in Jesus on display by the way in which we suffer.

Moreover, God uses the tribulations we face as a method by which He brings about greater spiritual growth in the individual believer—i.e., patience, temperance, character.

May the Lord allow us greater and greater depths of peace “in Him”—as we come to know the truth of the Gospel. Moreover, may He develop the fruit of that genuine hope we possess in the eternal destiny promised.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28 NKJV).

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20 NKJV).

I love you all, Pastor Paul