

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

1/28/18

Text: Romans 5:1-11 (ESV)

Title: Joy - Even In Suffering

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim led us a second time through Romans 5:1-11 as we looked at the hard reality of suffering in the world and in our lives. As we saw, suffering is a reality, whether or not we are a Christian; the difference is our understanding and response to suffering in light of the gospel. In our brokenness we will do almost anything to avoid suffering, and look for any way to get out of it rather than seeing it as a tool that God uses to bring about his good plan. As shocking as it seems, Paul writes that as Christians we can “rejoice in our sufferings” because we know that we have a greater hope in God’s power, wisdom and love for us and we are able to find our true joy and peace in Him above all else. In Christ, we get to admit our utter failure, brokenness and neediness, and cry out to him to be our peace, our assurance and our joy.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Paul writes, suffering is meant to produce Endurance, Character, and Hope which does not disappoint. A.W. Tozer wrote, “A person’s belief about God is the most important thing about them..” because it shapes everything else about them.*
 - Where are you most disappointed with how God has orchestrated things?**
- 2. You and I doubt that anything good can come from suffering, and we’ll do anything to relieve it (like helping the butterfly out of the cocoon, which ultimately kills it). When we face a “Crisis” our suffering reveals us for who we really are, and what we really value.*
 - What areas are you most likely to try to fix when someone is suffering? What is your “go-to” remedy?**
 - What have you learned about yourself and your values by going through times of suffering? What have you learned about God?**
- 3. Tim talked about the plastic easter eggs that all broke apart so easily except for the one that had a nerf ball stuffed inside it. As he said, “because it was full, it could really take a beating.” Jesus came to not only cleanse us from our sin, but he also made it possible for His Holy Spirit to fill us up with his Wisdom, Power and Love.*
 - What areas of your life feel most fragile or vulnerable to suffering?**
 - Where do you need God to fill you up with His Wisdom, Power and Love?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty, for His sovereign power, wisdom and goodness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is actively working all things together for our good as His children.

2. How have you blamed God for brokenness in this world, rather than owning your own part in our sinful rebellion? Confess your pride and selfishness to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to secure you by His victory over sin, death and hell.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His ability to harness evil and every fallen circumstance to ultimately accomplish good. Thank Him for entering into the worst suffering into to bless us with the highest good in redemption.

4. Who is the person closest to you that is suffering? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them, and to give them hope that even by this, He can produce endurance, character and even hope by His love.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow in you the fruit of peace and patience as you suffer. Pray for the assurance promised in Romans 5:5, that His love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.