

23rd October 2016—Sermon Outline—Romans 5:1-11

Over the previous section of Romans Paul has been spelling out how we can be brought into a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Now he is going on Chapters 5-8 to explain the wonderful benefits that come from all Christ has done. It leads to a **life of hope**, a hope distinctly different and more certain than the mere optimism and 'wishful thinking' of our society.

1. The Journey of Christian Hope (v.1-4)

It begins with 'peace with God' – that shalom of no longer being God's enemies but being reconciled to him. This, in turn, leads to access to God himself (v.2) and therefore to appreciating something of his glory (v.2b). This intimate experience of God's faithfulness and goodness is the foundation of all true hope. But this hope becomes real as we face suffering, a daily experience for these first believers in C1st Rome. Suffering, with God at the centre, shapes our character and leads not to bitterness but an even greater hope in God.

2. The ground of Christian Hope (v.5-8)

Hope does not disappoint us (v.5) because it is rooted in the unchanging love of God. This we know both *experientially* through God's Spirit giving us a daily awareness of His love (v.5) and *historically* (v.6-8) through God's giving of his own Son as a sacrifice for our sins. This is the proof of his love. If he loves us enough to give his own Son in death when we were rebels and sinners surely he will love us as his children through all our difficulties.

3. The certainty of Christian Hope (v.9-11)

We have hope not just for past guilt and present suffering but for the end of time as well. We all face God's judgement but if we have already been declared righteous (and are being changed daily to be like Christ) then this is our hope for the End. If we have been rescued through Christ's death, *how much more* secure are we knowing he is alive and pleading our cause! Paul ends as he begun this section with exulting in our peace with God (our reconciliation).



23rd October 2016—Home Group Study Notes

Read: Romans 5:1-11

1. Paul begins here a new section. Having outlined *why* all humanity needs to be put right with God and *how* we are put right with God he now comes to expound the benefits of our salvation. Looking at this section as a whole what are these benefits?
2. Central to this passage is the theme of suffering, a daily experience of these early Roman believers. How might Christians then and now, in parts of the world where persecution is very real, find this passage coming alive?
3. This section is not only Trinitarian but celebrates the N.T. triad of virtues - faith hope and love. What is the relationship between the three in this passage?
4. Why is it possible to say with Paul 'we rejoice (boast/exult) in our sufferings (v.3)? What it is that makes the difference in our lives between suffering spawning bitterness and suffering leading to hope?
5. What examples of this Christian hope (in the midst of great difficulty) have we witnessed?
6. The *ground* of Christian hope is God's love. What comes to mind with Paul's image that God's love *has been poured* into our hearts? Does this infer an unusual or overpowering experience?
7. What is the particular force of v.6-8? How can we keep this central truth fresh and alive in our worship of God?
8. The passage ends in v.9-11 with a '*how much more*' argument (v.9, 10). What is the argument and how does it encourage us?
9. What does '**boasting in God**' look like for us? How is it different from the Jewish boasting of Romans 2:17?

