

## Romans: Verse-by-Verse

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Romans 5:5

### Student Notes:

- **We Rejoice In Suffering:** (Thlipsis: troubles directly tied to our faith)  
Paul's "We" statements: The benefits of being justified by grace through faith. Verse 3: "Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings..."

Paul's assertion: Trials, directly linked to our faith, can provide us a path to glory and bring us to maturity.

- **Suffering: The Best Context for God's Love:**

Paul insists that suffering is actually the best context in which we can be assured of God's love.

The human response: "Suffering doesn't help me be assured of God's love; it makes me doubt it." Bible examples: Jacob, Job and Israel.

Paul's Response: Suffering as an opportunity to know God's love. In the prior verses he has traced the path of suffering from tribulation to perseverance, from perseverance to character, and from character to hope. (See verses 3-4)

- **The Continuing Assertion:** V. 5 "... **And hope does not put us to shame**, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Hope does not disappoint us: Greek wording -- Hope will never betray us or prove to be an illusion.

"How do we know our hope of glory isn't an illusion?" Paul's answer: The ultimate ground on which our hope of glory rests is the steadfast

love of God.

How can we be sure of God's love?

- **The Subjective Love Of God:**

v. 5: *"God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."*

This is the very first mention of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer in the book of Romans. Some important points:

1. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to all believers:

It is a direct result of our justification by faith. John 16:8-11:

"When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."

2. The Holy Spirit was given to us at a particular time:

At "salvation" ... "God's love was shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit".

The Greek tenses here: When we became saved one of the distinctive roles of the Holy Spirit was to pour God's love into our hearts; this is a once and ongoing process. The Holy Spirit intends to keep doing this for us.

- **Outpouring or In-Filling?**

Is Paul talking about the outpouring of the Spirit or the outpouring of God's love by the Holy Spirit at conversion? The context favors the latter.

Romans 8:15-16: "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

There is little, if any, appreciable difference between being assured of God's fatherhood (seen in Romans 8:16), and of his love (seen in Romans 5:5).

All who receive Christ receive the outpouring of the love of God in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. Our subjective spiritual experiences do not change that.

- **The Objective Love Of God:**

Paul: "God proves His love for us by Christ's death on the cross."

Paul's earlier statement: God demonstrated his justice by the Cross: "God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished..." - Romans 3:25

A new statement: The Cross is also the demonstration of God's love for us -- an objective, unchanging demonstration. Greek verb: To "prove" – (not, demonstrate).

"Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, and that is God's proof of his love towards us".

John R.W. Stott: "God's proof of His love is found in one powerful phrase: 'God so loved' ... In order to grasp this, we need to remember that the essence loving is giving.'"

Human Valuations # 1: The degree of someone's love measured by the costliness of the gift. A true valuation of God's love: What it cost him to redeem his relationship to us. "God so love the world that he

gave His One and Only Son”.

If God sacrificed a few dozen angels, it wouldn't have had the same message as sacrificing His One and Only Son!

Human Valuation # 2: The greater the gift, the greater the degree someone deserves it. The more we think someone deserves a gift -- the more willing we are to provide it (or accept that someone else is receiving it.)

Paul: God's love in Christ is absolutely unique. When the wrath of God was being revealed from heaven against all forms of wickedness -- what did God do? He sent His Son to redeem us.

Paul : “While we were still sinners ... Christ died for us’. Verses 6 and 8: “Christ died”. Verse 10 clarifies the cost to God the Father. “... When we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him **through the death of his Son...**”

Further clarifying the cost to the Father: Hebrews 1:1-3 --

“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”

In the past ... God sent angels and prophets. In the last days, God sent His Own Son; he gave his own Son.

J.R.W. Stott: “... In giving his Son he was giving himself.” --