

Be Steadfast in Your Suffering
Romans 5:3-5

February 18, 2024

Grace Bible Church

BECAUSE YOU ARE JUSTIFIED, EXULT AND BE STEADFAST IN YOUR TROUBLES.

"THE WORLD'S PHILOSOPHY IS, 'WHAT CAN'T BE CURED MUST BE ENDURED.' BUT PAUL RADIANTLY TESTIFIES, 'WHAT CAN'T BE CURED CAN BE ENJOYED. I EVEN ENJOY WEAKNESS, SUFFERINGS, PRIVATIONS, AND DIFFICULTIES.' SO WONDERFUL DID HE PROVE GOD'S GRACE TO BE, THAT HE EVEN WELCOMED FRESH OCCASIONS OF DRAWING UPON ITS FULLNESS. 'I GLADLY GLORY...EVEN ENJOY—MY THORN.'"

— J. OSWALD SANDERS,
A SPIRITUAL CLINIC.

1. Be Steadfast in Trouble Because Trouble Produces _____ (v. 3)

2. Be Steadfast in Trouble Because Perseverance Produces _____ (v. 4a)

"GOD DOESN'T DELIGHT IN THE PAIN OF HIS CHILDREN. RATHER, THERE ARE LOVING PURPOSES BEHIND EVERY TEAR. YOU JUST CAN'T SEE WHAT THEY ARE YET. YOU DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY OF WHAT GOD IS DOING."

— MARK VROEGOP,
DARK CLOUDS, DEEP MERCY.

*"WHEN JESUS IS EVERYTHING TO US,
SUFFERING IS NOT A HUGE PROBLEM. IF WE
HAVE HIM WITH US, WE HAVE WHAT MATTERS
MOST. HIS LOVE FOR US GIVES US THE JOY
THAT BECOMES OUR STRENGTH. THEN WE
CAN BEAR SUFFERING AND REMAIN TOTALLY
FULFILLED HUMAN BEINGS IN THE MIDST OF
IT."*

— *AJITH FERNANDO,*
THE CALL TO JOY & PAIN.

3. Be Steadfast in Trouble Because Character Produces _____ (v. 4b-5a)

4. Be Steadfast in Trouble Because You Have the _____ of God (v. 5b)

*"THERE IS NOTHING ACCIDENTAL IN
SUFFERING. THE GOD WHO DECLARES THE
'END FROM THE BEGINNING' (ISA. 46:10)
AND WORKS ALL THINGS AFTER 'THE COUNSEL
OF HIS WILL' (EPH. 1:11) IS FULLY IN
CONTROL OF EVERY SITUATION OF PAIN OR
SUFFERING THAT WE ENCOUNTER. ODDLY,
SOME CHRISTIANS SEEM INSTINCTIVELY TO
WANT TO PUSH AWAY SUFFERING. THEY
THINK IT BEST TO KEEP SUFFERING AT ARM'S
LENGTH. BUT NOT ONLY IS THIS A MISTAKE
BIBLICALLY AND THEOLOGICALLY; IT IS A
HUGE MISTAKE SPIRITUALLY AND
PRACTICALLY. OH, WHAT STRENGTH THERE IS
TO KNOW THAT GOD CONTROLS AND ORDAINS
SUFFERING PRECISELY BECAUSE ONLY
THROUGH SUCH SUFFERING DO WE GROW IN
THE WAYS GOD INTENDS FOR US,
STRENGTHENING US FOR WHAT HE HAS IN
STORE FOR THE FUTURE."*

— *BRUCE WARE,*
THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.

By the grace of God, one thing I can do this week in response to this sermon is: