

Eight Blessings of Salvation. Sermon 4

The blessing of our glory in tribulations.

Romans 5:3 *“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also...”*

God has given the believer every tool we need in life to be content. God said, *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”*

Philippians 4:11 God has given us as Christians every encouragement we need to be content, no matter what happens in our life. The most powerful scripture on this subject is, **Hebrews 13:5**

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Our contentment in this life is built on

and strengthened in our faith in God and in God’s word. Our trust in the Lord and His word is our strength in this life. Knowing that God has us and that He will never leave or forsake us in any part of life. God follows verse 5 with verse 6 *“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”* Or what ever happens in this life,

knowing that the counsel of God shall stand. God has already given to us “Peace” with Him through Jesus Christ, He has also given us “access” to Him the most powerful being in all

creation, and He has given us hope in our Saviour and in Him, “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” This hope is in His glory, God said, **1 Corinthians 9:10** *“Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.”* It is like salvation, God gives the increase we just plant and water the field, therefore, we must be content with the results. **1**

Corinthians 3:9 *“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”* Whatever the results of life are, as God’s children we must be content, it is God that

has appointed for all people to die, just as it is God that has appointed our life as He did Job’s.

So, when things in life happens, we must deal with them as God’s doing for us as Jesus did in His life. We do not know what the Lord is doing in our life nor why He is doing them, we are

just as confused in life as Job was. But like Job, we need to be content, because our contentment is based on God’s gift of our “Peace with Him”, our “Access to Him anytime”, and most

certainly our ability to rejoice in the “Hope” we have in Jesus Christ. Our contentment is our

putting this puzzle together in life and walk with the hope Job had, while we may not understand

what is happening, or why it is happening, and knowing that God is walking with us in it because He will never leave nor forsake us.

A. *“we glory in tribulations”*

1. The Lord does not mention certain tribulations, but He says “in tribulations” meaning all tribulations.
2. Jesus said in His “sermon on the mount” **Matthew 5:10 - 12** *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. (12) Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”* Not when your persecuted for unrighteousness, but for “*righteousness' sake*” or for following the Lord and doing His work as Jesus did.
3. God tells us to “rejoice in these persecutions, trials, and tribulations, this is part of being content, knowing that God is in control and the Lord is either bringing them or He is allowing them.
4. God said in, **James 1:12** *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*
5. We must understand the meaning of God, He does lead us into persecutions, tribulations, and He does tempt us, but never to harm us, never to cause us to sin or to fail, but to teach us, and to build us stronger in our faith and hope. But never, with evil!
6. Evil comes when we fail in our faith, we bring it on ourselves. **James 1:13 - 14** *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: (14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”*

B. Everything God does in our life or allows in our life builds our faith and hope.

1. God said in **Romans 8:28** *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*
 - a. Please understand, when God says “*that all things work together for good*” It does not mean we will see the good, but God said they are for our good.

- b. How do we “know”, we know from God’s Word, or inspired conviction, or experience of their effects that God has given them for our own good.
 - c. We must constantly be reminded that all things are in God’s ordained will and His Sovereign hands and power. Just as it was with Job.
2. We may “know” that all things are to our good if we see it in the realness of God. Therefore, we can understand and know that all things “*mutually contribute to our good.*” -Albert Barnes
3. Let all see how God used this passage to walk us through this thought,
 - a. By giving us **peace**, we know God will never give us wrath.
 - b. By giving us **access**, we know that He is always available to hear our prayers and to answer those prayers as He chooses.
 - c. And by giving us **hope**, in that we know that God has given everything for our glory, and He will reward us openly for suffering them in Heaven.
4. Our growth as Christians, or our experience in these “Tribulations” is the purpose in them. God teaches us, He also chastens us, and chastises us, but even in this it is to gain our experience as Christians.
 - a. Listen to the Prophet Jeremiah speak about Ephraim, **Jeremiah 31:18 - 19** "*I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God. (19) Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.*" – Youth means - the shame brought upon me by sins of my youth or non-experience.
 - b. Ephraim grew in his hope, knowing that these troubles were the works of God and not of his own bad, God was teaching Him.
 - c. The problem with all of us at times, is we fail to see God’s hand in it all, we are like Job, not understanding, but we need to be also like Job and trust God and His promise, “*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*” - **Psalms 23:4 - 6** "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (5) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my*

cup runneth over. (6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

- d. The Lord will not fail us, we fail God in our lack of faith and hope. We need to be like Job in life but also like Ephraim and stop “bemoaning” ourselves – that is crying, moaning, or pitting ourselves and smite ourselves upon our thigh: and be ashamed of our lack of faith, hope, and trust in the Lord. However, that is only accomplished in our experiences of our tribulations.