**Romans 5:3-11 – When Life Hits Us Hard**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* **Rom. 5:3-4** brings to light the character of who we are, where we stand, maturity wise.
* Trials and sufferings were not taken off the table nor did they disappear the moment we became a Christian. The Bible does not teach that.

**Four Thoughts To Consider**

**Tough times happen to everyone – vs. 3**

* The word “sufferings” means “a pressing together, being squeezed into a narrow place, trial, affliction, distress.” Believers suffer through troubles and difficult times.
* Though it may seem difficult, we are to “rejoice” in trials. We rest in God’s amazing grace knowing that He is with us in the most difficult times.
* Jesus went through very tough times, beaten and crucified for us **(see Heb. 12:2)**.
* **Point:** When difficult times hit, what have we learned. Do we rejoice, trusting in God that He is right there with us. Can we look to Him and be thankful for His presence.

**We can learn patience through difficult times – vs. 3**

* Difficult times can “produce” (bring about, result in) “endurance” or “patience.”
* The word here for “endurance” describes someone who even when going through trials, does not throw their faith off to the side. They persevere, they stand firm in what they believe.
* This “endurance” is something we come to know and understand over time.
* **Point:** When difficulties hit, we must lean into God by faith and not focus on the situation though we cannot ignore it. We can also think about how God has been with us through other tough times.

**We grow as a person depending on how we handle trials – vs. 4**

* The word “character” is descriptive of how spiritually mature we are as we go through trials.
* The word has the idea of having an “approved” or “proven” character. How do we respond when things happen? Do we blame God? Do we see what we can learn from the situation?
* When we want to throw in the towel, think about how God may be using the situation we are in to refine us for His glory. Our character comes out and is seen in how we handle life.
* **Point:** Do we live under constant stress, worry, fears when things get tough. Or do we choose to face the wind and show that God is indeed Lord of our life, and we are going to allow Him to help us grow in our relationship with Him, proving our character.

**Remember that our hope is in Christ – vss. 5-11**

* Our hope is that we have a future with Christ, but we also have that hope on a daily basis. Hope will not “put us to shame” **(vs. 5)**, meaning it does not deceive us. God fulfills His promises.
* The Holy Spirit lives in us and God’s love is a part of our lives, and we are to show it to others **(1 Jn. 4:9-21; Gal. 5:22-23)**.
* **Vss. 6-11** show us God’s love for us in action.
* Christ died for us **(vs. 6)**, because we were “weak” spiritually, unable to save ourselves. We did not have the strength to take care of our sinful condition. We needed God.
* The word “for” in **vs. 6** is important. It can mean “instead of, on behalf of.” Christ took our place on the cross as our substitute. We deserved to die, but we could not save ourselves. The Lord stepped in.
* **Vs. 7** leads into **vs. 8**. No one is “righteous” or “good” before God. Even if the world thinks someone may be good that does not mean they would be willing to die in their place.
* God continually shows His love to us **(vs. 8)**. We are sinners in need of a Savior.
* **Vss. 9-11** reminds us that we who are God’s children will not face judgment. God also saves us from the power of sin **(Rom. 6)** and Christ intercedes for us, and the Holy Spirit helps us live as we should.
* **Point:** Keep in mind all that God offers us, even when things are tough. Spend time thanking Him for the goodness and love He shows us.