

ROMANS: PART 23
EFFECTS OF THE GOSPEL
SEPTEMBER 10, 1995

The Eternal Security Of The Believer -- Freedom From God's Wrath
Evidence From Our Tried Lives (A Practical Argument)
Romans 5:3-5

The Context:

1. Three Theological Evidences For Eternal Security. Rom 1:5:1,2.
2. A Practical Evidence For Eternal Security. Rom 5:3-5.
3. A Logical Evidence For Eternal Security. Rom 5:5-11.

God's Purposes For Christian Suffering:

1. Constructive Suffering.
 - ◆ His loving work to build in us greater character.
 - ◆ Prov 3:11-12; Heb 12:5-7; Deut 8:3.
2. Corrective Suffering.
 - ◆ His loving discipline on us when we sin.
 - ◆ I Pet 4:15-19; Prov 3:1-12; Heb 12:5-7.
3. Cosmic-Warfare Suffering.
 - ◆ The drama of life that befalls Christian & non-Christian alike -- with different results.
 - ◆ The Book of Job.
4. Chief-End-Of-Man Suffering.
 - ◆ Suffering that the glory of God might be displayed. Some uninvited & some invited.
 - ◆ Jn 9:1-3; I Pet 2:19-25.

The Christian's Path Through Suffering. Rom 5:3-5.

1. "*Tribulations*" = θλιψεις Pressures. Pressing something down.
 - ◆ The result of slamming a sledge against grain to thresh it.
 - ◆ The pressing out of oil from grapes to make wine.
2. "*Perseverance*" = ὑπομονη To live under something.
 - ◆ We don't try to get out from under difficult pressures. We don't wriggle out.
 - ◆ We don't try to buy-figure-gripe-name & claim-pray our way out.
 - ◆ We *hang in there*, steady under fire. We don't quit our post.
 - ◆ We don't abandon God or the Christian life.
3. "*Proven Character*" = δοκιμη Tested, approved, qualified (Cf. Opposite of I Cor 9:27).
 - ◆ We are not *alloyed* coins or *trimmed* coins. We are tested & found true.
 - ◆ We continue to confess Christ, live for Christ, believe in Christ's purposes for us.
 - ◆ We don't respond to trials the same way as lost people do. Cf. Numbers 14;1-10.
4. "*Hope*" = The certainty that I am His.
 - ◆ God clearly has His Hand on me & is building me.
 - ◆ God clearly loves me enough to produce holiness in me.
 - ◆ God clearly gives me grace to go through these present trials.
 - ◆ God clearly will take me through judgment & will not abandon me.

Application. If the purpose of trials is to mold in us *authentic* character -- we should seek to:

1. Follow Him consistently:
2. Follow Him universally:
3. Follow Him exclusively: