

Peace with God, Access to Him, Hope of the Glory of God, Joy / Rejoicing in Suffering, Reconciliation with God: These were the benefits, the blessings that Paul cites in Romans 5:1-11 that are ours by the grace of God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A few points and questions to consider:

Have there been specific times in your life when you've experienced – have absolutely known – each of these benefits? Reflect on those times.

Paul's list in this passage is not exhaustive; there are others. What are some other blessings that are yours because of God's work of justification, of His declaring you righteous by faith?

Considering all of these benefits of your faith and the working of the Holy Spirit, what are specific ways Jesus Christ has made your life different? If not for Him, how would your life be?

Many aspects of the Christian life are counterintuitive: the last will be first and the first will be last; the greatest among you will be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. In this passage, Paul writes "we glory / rejoice in our tribulations / sufferings / afflictions." That is definitely something that does not come natural. Copied below is a link to an article regarding the "Theology of Suffering" from the perspective of modern-day Chinese pastors:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-chinese-pastors-developed-their-theology-for-suffering/>

- What are some things we can learn from our Chinese brothers and sisters about rejoicing in suffering?

- How could those change our outlook now and after the COVID-19 pandemic is over?

Scripture Reading for May 6 Bible Study: Romans 5:12-21

Once again, we encourage you to dig a little deeper into this passage by preparing a HEAR Report. As noted in previous weeks, HEAR is an acronym for Highlight, Explain, Apply, Respond.

- Read thru this passage and HIGHLIGHT a verse(s) that you found especially powerful.
- EXPLAIN the verse. What was the context and purpose for what was written and when it was written.
- APPLY the verse to yourself
- Lastly, RESPOND to the verse. Maybe there are changes God wants you to make in your life w.r.t. the verse. Or your response may be a prayer to God. It may be praising Him. However you feel led to respond.

As has been pointed out by others, the goal isn't for you / me to jot down a "profound truth" but to note the "truth you found."

Please email us and let us know how this passage spoke to you. Also let us know if you have any general comments, suggestions, etc. for this midweek Bible study program. *We want and need to hear from you.* Email address: connect@madisonavenuebc.org

Name: _____

H.E.A.R. REPORT for _____ (Bible passage).

Matthew 7:7 (ESV), "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Source: Growing Up, Robby Gallaty

Name: _____

H.E.A.R. REPORT for _____ (Bible passage).

Highlight a verse(s)

Explain what the text means.

Possible questions to consider: *Why was this written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses immediately before and after it? Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book? What is He intending to communicate through this text?*

Apply "the significance of these verses to you personally"

Possible questions to consider: *How can this help me? What does this mean to me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What does this mean to me? How does this apply to my family, my church family, my community? What is God saying to me?*

Respond

Matthew 7:7 (ESV), "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

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