

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
"Glory in Tribulations"
Romans 5:3

INTRODUCTION

1. Having been declared righteous (v. 1), Scripture teaches the true believer has (present possession) peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. In addition to peace, the believer has access or the right to stand (perfect tense) in grace. Moreover, he keeps on rejoicing in hope--ultimately, immediately, and presently. That's something.
3. But there is a switch--the true believer glories in tribulation. This is all because he is declared righteous before the Holy God. How can this be? Study this:-

1. TRIBULATIONS--COMMON

a. Defined

The word comes from a Latin word meaning to oppress, afflict. It is related to a threshing sledge which separated grain from chaff. The Greek term used is similar and means to press together or pressure.

b. Determined

Everyone has tribulation (Job 5:6, 7). The two Hebrew words translated "sparks" are literally "sons of flame." Life is similar to fire--it produces sparks i.e. adversities and afflictions. No one is exempt. Everyone falls under troubles. We are children of the flame.

NOTE: Apparently there is a connection here between "pressure" and "joy." Grapes and olives produce wine and oil which are symbols of joy and gladness. The true believer is not a dry grape nor a wrinkled olive, but rich fruit pressed to manifest Him!

2. TRIBULATIONS--PURPOSEFUL

a. Stated

Believers are not fatalists. No matter how terrible the grief or anguish of the moment, a Bible believer knows that God does not make mistakes. He rests completely on the Word of God (Gen. 50:20; 1 Sam. 3:18; Jer. 29:11; Rom. 8:28).

b. Detailed

Sufferings are sent to believers for a number of reasons or purposes. Among these are the following:

- 1) For correction. This suggests that the believer has stepped out of the will of God and needs correction. The outstanding section of Scripture dealing with this is Hebrews 12:5ff. The word "chastening"

conveys the idea of training. It is forever true that no son ever grows up uncorrected by his father. That holds true in the family of God too. In the teaching process, God often makes matters so clearly difficult that the believer knows he is outside God's will (cf. Hosea 2:6; Lam. 3:7-9).

2) For construction. The issue here is that God is working through our experiences to make us like His Son (Rom. 8:29). Hence, tribulations help forward Christ-likeness (Psa. 119:67). So the Lord works on those whom He has redeemed (cf. Isa. 49:1, 2; Mal. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:6, 7). We can sing,

*"Let sorrow do its work, send grief and pain;
Sweet are Thy messengers, Sweet their refrain,
When they can sing with me, More love, O
Christ, to Thee, more love to Thee!"*

3) For consideration. Many have felt there is always correction between sin and suffering. The practice of trial by ordeal in the Middle Ages is an example of this. However, Scripture teaches that some suffer to serve as examples (cf. Job; John 9; Luke 22:31).

CONCLUSION

There it is--glorying in tribulation as a fruit of justification. Let's not bite the dust in shame, but glory in the will of God whatever our circumstance may be. God has planned it that way.

*Jer 29:11 ~
"To give you a planned future
and end."*

*Note:
Romans not written to Jews but to
the Gentiles.*