



Saturday, 12/3/16

HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

READING: Romans 5:1-5

Our hope will not disappoint if that hope is placed in Christ. If we are believers in Christ, His deity, His sinless life, His death as a payment for our sins, and His resurrection, then we have been declared righteous because of our belief and we have access to God through Jesus and hope of eternal life in heaven. But our lives don't end the moment we believe, at the point of our salvation. We must endure our time on earth in a very imperfect world where there is often pain and suffering. Romans 5:1-5 gives a clear path from suffering to hope when we encounter trials, which can be particularly helpful in the midst of hard times.

Sanctification is a big word that means the process by which we become holy, or set apart for particular use in a special purpose or work. Some synonyms for sanctification include purification, cleansing, and refining. This process of sanctification is the work we are called to do once we believe. Our daily quest should be to become more like Christ. 1 Peter 1:16 "Be Holy for I am Holy." Each day provides hindrances to that quest: trials, tribulations, and problems. Some may be small and relatively quick to fix, like a flat tire or a bounced check. Some may be more difficult and require much more endurance, like a cancer diagnosis or the loss of a child. But God's word promises that those tribulations will produce endurance, and that endurance will produce proven character, and proven character will produce hope. As we look to Christ as our example and try to live like he did, we should endeavor to respond and react as He would: in obedience, in faith, and in service to God's purposes. In addition to endurance, proven character, and hope, verse 5 also promises that God's love will be poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Malachi 3:2-3 "But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD."

-Rachel Spinuzzi