

The Christian Hope
Romans 5:1-5
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Romans 5:1-5
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Hope needs an object.

“Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...”

- The U.S. Declaration of Independence

“Other cultures have provided its members with various answers to the question ‘What is the purpose of human life?’ Some cultures have said it is to live a good life and so eventually escape the cycle of karma and reincarnation and be liberated into eternal bliss. Some have said it is enlightenment—the recognition of the oneness of all things and the attainment of tranquility. Others have said it is to live a life of virtue, of nobility and honor. There are those who teach that the ultimate purpose in life is to go to heaven to be with your loved ones and with God forever. The crucial commonality is this: In every one of these world views, suffering can, despite its painfulness, be an important means of actually achieving your purpose in life. It can play a pivotal role in propelling you toward all the most important goals. One could say that in each of these other cultures’ grand narratives — what human life is all about — suffering can be an important chapter or part of that story…But modern Western culture is different. In the secular view, this material world is all there is. And so the meaning of life is to have the freedom to choose the life that makes you most happy. However, in that view of things, suffering can have no meaningful part. It is a complete interruption of your life story—it cannot be a meaningful part of the story. In this approach to life, suffering should be avoided at almost any cost, or minimized to the greatest degree possible.”

- Timothy Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*

Our hope has been hijacked…by planning and optimism.

Biblical hope is a vision of life that guides itself by faith in God's promise, irrespective of whether the situation looks optimistic or pessimistic at any given time.

Romans 5:2
And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

THIS is hope, that vision of life that guides itself by faith in God's promise, irrespective of whether the situation looks optimistic or pessimistic at any given time.

Romans 5:3
Not only that but because we have hope in God's future, we can go through present trials and tribulations, sufferings and pains in this life *REJOICING*.

"Suffering, merely accepted, does nothing for our souls except, perhaps, to harden them."

- Thomas Merton