

LESSON - ROMANS 5:1-5 (NIV based)

THEME - Benefits of Justification

Q: How would you describe an unbeliever's relationship with or to God? Neutral? Separated? Hostile? Enemies? Mutual enemy-hood? A: see vv.1, 10

v.1 peace with God

v.2 access to God

Q: Do unbelievers have access to God? Does God hear their prayers? Are there any exceptions - salvation?

v.2 hope in God

Q: define HOPE = a certainty; an absolute that will take place; a joyful & contented expectation

vv.3-4 rejoice in sufferings: fruit of tribulation --

1. perseverance = the duty & privilege of a Christian to continue steadfastly in obedience & fidelity to Christ in spite of counter influences, opposition, or discouragement; patient endurance

Q: What practical benefit (aside from building character) does perseverance have? A: gives you the ability to achieve a difficult goal; more able to cope; develops patience for God to bring a solution

2. tested character

Q: What practical benefit does tested character have? A: makes you wiser, stronger, greater understanding, maturity

3. hope - confirmed in love

Q: How does perseverance & tested character give us hope? A: We find & experience that there is no way we would have made it thru the extremely trying experience without direct, divine help from God. Therefore, God has revealed & confirmed His reality to us during the trying times and thus, we can become certain that there is a God & that He indwells us.

Q: How do we usually react when we are being severely tested? A: anger, despair, self-pity, frustration, escape-ism, accuse God

Q: What should be our response when we are severely tested? (2 Cor. 1:6)

A: BIG IDEA:

1. maintain personal integrity/character before God & men - i.e. do not sin but instead patiently endure
2. search for ways God is trying to build your character, faith, & confirm His reality
3. remember it is for our own good

If have extra time: What are some things you have learned from enduring past trials?

Works Cited:

Bible. "The Holy Bible: New International Version." *The Bible Library CD-ROM*. Oklahoma City, OK: Ellis Enterprises, 1988.

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