

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Have a Rock-Solid Faith

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 5:1-5

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) In these desperate days in which we're living, we need a faith that will stand fast.
 - i) We need some spiritual steel and concrete in our lives.
- b) Many Christians are being blown about by the winds of circumstances, scattered by the storms of calamity, and swept away in floods of affliction.
 - i) They don't seem to have an anchor that will hold in the storm.
 - ii) They are weak and floundering saints, but God wants us to be strong.
 - (1) God doesn't want us to fold up and give up.
 - (2) He wants us to look up and stand up.
- c) God wants us to have a foundation that is sure.
 - i) Romans is a foundation for our faith, a solid Word for an unsure age.
- d) God is in the business of building saints.
 - i) When God gives us salvation, He's not finished with us; He's beginning with us.
 - ii) Philippians 1:6
 - iii) He wants to build into us a rock-solid faith.
- e) Romans 5:1-5
- f) Both peace and tribulation are byproducts of salvation.
 - i) Romans 5:1
 - ii) Romans 5:3
 - (1) Don't think that when you get saved, all you get is peace with no problem, no heartache, no tears and no disappointment.
 - (a) When God builds into us a rock-solid faith, He will mix in some tribulation.
- g) Today's message will focus on four things that we need to learn if we want to have a rock-solid faith.

2) CONVERSION BRINGS CONFLICT (ROMANS 5:1-3)

- a) "*Being justified by faith*" speaks of peace with God.
 - i) Paul is talking about access by faith into this grace.
- b) The word "tribulation" in this passage literally means "pressure."
 - i) The word used here is the same word that is used when a person would crush grapes to get wine and when someone would crush olives to get oil.
 - (1) God wants to build into our character the wine and oil of His strength and love.
 - (2) To build this character, God will bring pressure into our lives because without pressure, He cannot make us strong saints.
- c) We need to understand that when we have trouble, heartache, and disappointment, that God is over it all.
 - i) God is watching over it all.
 - (1) This may be hard for us to understand.
 - (2) Thomas Watson: "Where reason cannot wade, there faith must swim."

- ii) Conflict and pressure may come from Satan, or it may come from God; but God is over all.
 - (1) Satan will bring conflict to cause us to stumble.
 - (2) God will bring conflict to cause us to stand.
 - iii) We will know pressure as Christians.
 - d) Pressure will come from the world.
 - i) Romans 12:2
 - ii) When we come to Jesus, the world will begin to bring pressure on us to try to squeeze us into its mold.
 - (1) We will see this from the entertainment world, the business world, the social world and the political world.
 - e) Pressure will come from the flesh.
 - i) Once we get saved, we receive a new nature, but the old Adamic nature is still there.
 - ii) The proclivity to sin is still there.
 - (1) The Bible calls this “the flesh.”
 - (2) The flesh is an enemy inside the fort.
 - (3) We will feel a civil war within us.
 - iii) Galatians 5:17
 - f) Pressure will come from the devil himself.
 - i) We never really understand the power of Satan until we get saved.
 - ii) If you don’t have any difficulty with the devil, it’s because you and the devil are traveling in the same direction.
 - (1) If you turn around, you’ll have a collision with him; right now, you’re in collusion with him.
 - iii) When we get saved, Satan levels all of the artillery of Hell against us.
 - iv) Satan came against Jesus, and he will come against us.
 - (1) An unsaved person is spiritually dead; therefore, Satan doesn’t have to bother him.
 - v) A person may even think that they’re not saved because of the pressure and conflict.
 - g) Pressure will come from God.
 - i) It will come from God to cause us to stand.
 - ii) Hebrews 12:6
 - iii) God is not trying to make us happy, He is trying to make us holy.
 - iv) Temptations, testing and trials are a part of life.
 - (1) It is a false gospel that says that we will have no adversity, persecution or pain if we come to Christ.
- 3) CONFLICT TEACHES CONSTANCY (ROMANS 5:3)
- a) The word “patience” means “constancy.”
 - i) When the pressure or crisis comes, it doesn’t make us; it just reveals what we’re made of.
 - b) “Patience” also means “endurance.”

- c) We will never have strength, victory, prosperity or contentment without patience.
 - i) We will never learn much of anything worth learning if we don't have constancy, endurance and patience.
 - (1) If you want to play the piano, you have to learn the scales.
 - (2) If you want to learn Greek, you have to study the verbs.
 - (3) If you want to build character, you have to persevere and endure.
 - ii) There is no instant maturity.
 - iii) Conversion brings conflict, and conflict is meant to teach constancy and patience.
 - d) There are four things we can do when conflict comes:
 - i) Retreat
 - (1) Some people run away from conflict, either physically or emotionally.
 - ii) Resent
 - (1) They pout and hold a grudge against God.
 - (2) They become cynical.
 - iii) Resign
 - (1) They cave in and give up.
 - (a) They lie down on the field and surrender their shield.
 - (2) They give in to discouragement and despondency.
 - iv) Resolve
 - (1) God's plan is for us to resolve by faith that we will follow Him.
 - (2) Faith is shown more in patience and constancy than in any other way.
 - (3) If you really have faith when trouble comes, you will endure.
 - (4) Faith is not receiving the things that we want nearly so much as it is accepting from God the things that He gives.
 - (a) Tribulation works patience.
 - (b) Don't try to wiggle out of what God is doing.
 - (c) Job 13:15
 - (5) William Barclay described constancy in this way:
 - (a) It is not the patience that sits down, bows its head and lets things descend upon it and passively endures until the storm passes.
 - (b) It is the spirit which can bear things, not with resignation, but with blazing hope.
 - (c) It is not the spirit which sits statically enduring in one place, but the spirit which bears things because it knows that these things are leading to a goal of glory.
- 4) CONSTANCY DEVELOPS CHARACTER (ROMANS 5:4)
- a) "Experience" here is translated many times as "character."
 - b) God wants to build into us character.
 - i) Reputation is what others think about us; character is what God and your spouse know about you.

- c) The word “experience” was used in the Bible to describe gold that’s tried in the fire and comes out pure.
 - i) God will put us in the fire of affliction to test us.
 - (1) The faith that can’t be tested can’t be trusted.
 - (2) This is the way we learn how much dross there may be in our lives that needs to be burned out of our lives.
 - d) The times we grow the most are not when everything is going fine, but when we are going through sorrow and pressure and trouble.
 - i) Robert Browning Hamilton: “I walked a mile with pleasure; she chatted all the way. But left me none the wiser for all she had to say. I walked a mile with sorrow, and not a word said she. But oh the things I learned from her when sorrow walked with me.”
 - e) As God builds character into our lives, He does not remove us from difficulty or pain.
 - i) God is in the transformation business.
 - (1) God does not take away evil; He transforms it.
 - (a) God didn’t stop the crucifixion; He gave us Easter.
 - ii) God’s method is not the method of substitution.
 - (1) We want God to give us health instead of sickness, wealth instead of poverty, friendship instead of loneliness.
 - (2) We want God to substitute things.
 - iii) God took Paul’s weakness and transformed it into strength.
 - iv) Job 23:10
 - f) There is no way we are going to have character, which is translated “experience,” without experience.
 - i) We can be instantly spiritual but we cannot be instantly mature.
 - (1) You can only be young once, but you can be immature for a long time.
 - g) Most of us just want to get out of the fire of affliction.
 - i) God knows what He is doing.
 - ii) The refiner who is refining gold knows that it is pure when he can see his face reflected in it.
 - (1) God is looking for His character, His likeness, reflected in our lives.
- 5) CHARACTER WILL GIVE CONFIDENCE (ROMANS 5:4)
- a) The word “hope” in the Bible does not mean “maybe so” or “it might be.”
 - i) The word “hope” means “rock-solid faith.”
 - (1) The Second Coming of Jesus is called “the blessed hope.”
 - (a) Titus 2:13
 - (b) This is not the “blessed maybe;” it is talking about hope as an anchor of the soul.
 - b) Hebrews 6:19
 - c) When we’ve been through the fire, we know that He has not failed us and that He has kept His Word.
 - d) Romans 8:38-39

- e) Hope is faith in the future tense.
 - i) It believes God not only for the present, but also for the future.
 - ii) No matter what, we have that absolute confidence.
 - f) Romans 5:4-5
 - i) “*Maketh not ashamed*” means it will never disappoint us.
 - ii) God cannot fail, and He will not fail.
 - (1) But we need to get a bulldog grip on the things that really count.
 - iii) No one ever has or ever can put his faith in Jesus and then be disappointed or ashamed that he did.
 - g) Character enables us to trust God in the darkest storm.
 - i) Hebrews 6:19
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) Ephesians 4:18
 - i) The Apostle Paul spoke of those who were lost as being alienated from the life of God without hope in this world.
 - b) There is a hope, not a maybe but a certainty.
 - i) That hope begins with conversion.
 - c) Would you like to be saved today?
 - d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16