**Sermon Title: The Sources of Assurance Now and Forever, Part 2**

**Sermon Text: Romans 5:3-5a**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to find assurance and stability in the salvation God provides.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 5 evidences of the believer’s hope of glory.**

**Introduction:** Romans vv.3-5a are a synopsis of Christian maturity and sanctification, that are connected to the outworking of justification by faith, because every aspect of our salvation is accomplished by God’s gracious provision of grace and His power.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **24** He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

 Bible expositor Arthur Pink wrote graphically “It is utterly and absolutely impossible that the sentence of the divine Judge should ever be revoked or reversed. Sooner shall the lightning’s of omnipotence shiver the Rock of Ages than those sheltering in Him again be brought under condemnation.” [The Doctrines of Electoin and Justification (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1974), pp. 247-248]

 Christians should be able to rejoice in tribulation because they know those hardships are evidence of faithful living which is blessed and rewarded, and thus produce spiritual benefits.

**I. The 1st evidence is glory in tribulations. V.3a**

 To glory means to boast or rejoice in praise. Believers who have been justified by faith (now live by this same faith) and can rejoice in tough circumstances, because they know their salvation is secure and this provides stability.

**2 Timothy 3:12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**Matthew 5:10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Hebrews 12:10** For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

 What happens between the present tense and the future tense of a believer’s life is suffering; this was the pattern for the Lord Jesus, and it must be the pattern for His followers (**Romans 8:17; Romans 18, 21, 23**)

**2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

**John 15:20** "Remember the word that I said to you,`A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

**Matthew 10:24** "A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. **25** "It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household!

**1 Peter 4:19** Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

**II. The 2nd evidence is tribulation will produce perseverance. V.3b**

 While suffering perseverance is produced, this means patient endurance, the quality of people who keep going under pressure. (**Romans 2:7; 8:25; 15:4-5**)

 Hispomone (perseverance) is often translated patience in the King James Version. But it carries the idea of endurance, the ability to continue working in the face of strong opposition and great obstacles.

**III. The 3rd evidence is perseverance will form character. V.4a**

 Character means, character that is tested and found to be trustworthy and true. Until we suffer we are untested. Only suffering can stamp or mark us with the hallmark of authentic faith, faith that endures.

**1 Peter 1:7** that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

**James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

 The Greek word is (dokime) and translates to mean proven character or simply to mean “proof,” which in the present context obviously refers to Christian character. The term was used for testing precious metals such as silver and gold to demonstrate their purity. (**1 Peter 2:20-25**)

 “Just as a metalsmith uses intense heat to melt silver and gold in order to cleanse them of physical impurities, so does God use tribulation, and afflictions to cleanse His children of spiritual impurities.”

**James 1:12** Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

[John MacArthur Romans Commentary 1-8, p. 282]

**IV. The 4th evidence is that hope that sustains. V.4b**

 In this sense the newest of Christians possesses the surety and certainty of “the hope of glory.” But subjectively that experience of hope can be shallow, almost a theoretical thing or idea of belief, a box of check marked doctrinal statements.”

 But when believers suffer, they hope and trust every fiber of their being. They hold on to the future hope of glory (4:18-19), they rejoice and make their boast in “the hope of the glory of God” that they will one day share in fullness, they will increase in maturity and be strengthened by their heavenly Father through this process, this will bring assurance, that can never be shaken.

**V. The 5th evidence is the hope that never disappoints. V.5a**

 The believer who has been (justified by faith) hope is certain, why? Because God’s love is assured to us by the Holy Spirit’s ministry within the core of our being (our hearts).

 The more a true believer pursues holiness, the more he or she is persecuted and troubled, the greater assurance (the hope) will be as they are sustained through the life of a Christian by the power of God’s grace, that He supplies. (**2 Peter 3:11-18**)

**Philippians 2:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. **14** Do all things without complaining and disputing,