

Romans 5:1-5 The Blessings of Being Justified

John 3:16 Genesis 3:8-9 Revelation 20:11-12,15
Romans 5:8 Colossians 1:19-22 Romans 3:23;8:16-18
1 Peter 1:6-7 Hebrews 11:13-14,16

- 1) We have permanent _____ God.
- 2) We have permanent _____ to God.
- 3) We have _____ of glory in heaven.
- 4) Biblical hope is the absolute expectation of coming, eternal _____

How to Build Hope Amidst Tribulation

Romans 8:18 Psalm 63:1-3 Genesis 39:12
Romans 12:15 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 John 16:33

- 5) Remember that God doesn't _____ suffering, but He does _____ it.
- 6) Make sure you are _____
- 7) Don't doubt God's love - The only true measure of God's love is the _____, not your circumstances.
- 8) Every trial or hardship calls for the same response:

- 9) Let the body be the _____
- 10) Focus on your _____

Romans 5:1-5 The Blessings of Being Justified

John 3:16 Genesis 3:8-9 Revelation 20:11-12,15
Romans 5:8 Colossians 1:19-22 Romans 3:23;8:16-18
1 Peter 1:6-7 Hebrews 11:13-14,16

- 1) We have permanent peace _____ with God.
- 2) We have permanent access _____ to God.
- 3) We have hope _____ of glory in heaven.
- 4) Biblical hope is the absolute expectation of coming, eternal good _____

How to Build Hope Amidst Tribulation

Romans 8:18 Psalm 63:1-3 Genesis 39:12
Romans 12:15 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 John 16:33

- 5) Remember that God doesn't cause _____ suffering, but He does allow _____ it.
- 6) Make sure you are saved _____
- 7) Don't doubt God's love - The only true measure of God's love is the cross _____, not your circumstances.
- 8) Every trial or hardship calls for the same response:
obedience _____
- 9) Let the body be the body _____
- 10) Focus on your blessings _____

our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us."

Try to imagine what it will be like when you are in heaven, looking back at your life here. What will be some of your thoughts?

TAKING IT HOME

- 7) One of the ways we can build hope amidst tribulation is by being thankful. Try to come up with 5-10 specific things you are thankful for.

- 8) Is there anything else from this week's study or homework that you need to remember or respond to?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework **For the week of December 5, 2021**

This is the last week of Life Groups for this quarter!

We'll take a break for Christmas and New Year's. The next quarter will start the week of January 9, 2022.

If you are currently in a Life Group, please tell your leader if you plan to A) Stay in the same group, B) Try a different group, or C) Take a break.

You are also invited to give us feedback on your group by taking the Life Group Survey. You can find the survey at www.OpenGateFellowship.com/LifeGroups or use a paper version in the church foyer. Thank you!

MY STORY

- 1) This is our last Life Group meeting of the year! What are one or two things you enjoyed most about this quarter of Life Group?

- 2) This week we heard that God's sovereignty does not mean He *causes* our suffering, but that He *allows* it and can *use* it for His glory and purpose. Can you think of a tough circumstance in your life that God has used to bring Him glory and praise?

REVIEW

- 3) Thinking back to this week's study (in Romans 5:1-5), was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) This week we talked about the reality of hell. Some people (whether believers or non-believers) struggle with the idea of hell. What do the following passages teach us about us and/or about God?

Isaiah 55:6-7 - "[6] Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. [7] Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

2 Peter 3:9 - "[9] The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:10-15a NLT - "[10] But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. [11] Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, [12] looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. [13] But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. [14] And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. [15] And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved."

- 5) What would you tell a friend or family member that said they don't want to believe in God because they can't understand how a God of love would send people to hell?

- 6) A Christian's hope is in expecting the good that is coming in heaven. How do the following verses encourage you to have a stronger hope?

Luke 2:8-14 - "[8] Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. [10] Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. [11] "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12] "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: [14] "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Romans 8:18-23 NLT - "[18] Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. [19] For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. [20] Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, [21] the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. [22] For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. [23] And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for