

## **The is Always Hope**

April 29, 2018

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today. We are thrilled that you are here!

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*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.*

*Romans 5:1-5*

Sometimes life is just tough! Things don't make sense. It feels like everything is just collapsing around you. It seems like no matter what you do you sink deeper and deeper into the hole. My guess is we have all been there at some point. Maybe that is where you are today.

1. The medical diagnosis is not positive;

2. Your company just made cuts in its workforce;
3. You are struggling with a relationship;
4. Your child is giving you fits;
5. A family member has died;
6. You just lost tons of money in a bad investment.

Paul writes in Romans 5 that there is hope. He also writes that we glory/rejoice/have joy when we have trouble because ultimately there is hope at the end. The difficulty is seeing the hope in the middle of the storm. It is easier to see what is right in front of us than to see where we are headed.

The progression is clear – suffering, perseverance, character, hope. In Jesus, we know that hope will never disappoint when it matters. Trust that God loves us. There is always hope.

Share the hope of Jesus with someone today!

All Things for Christ,  
Michael