

Distress and Trouble

- **Meaningful:** serves a purpose, brings good
 - Examples?
- **Meaningless:** serves no propose, brings no good
 - Examples?

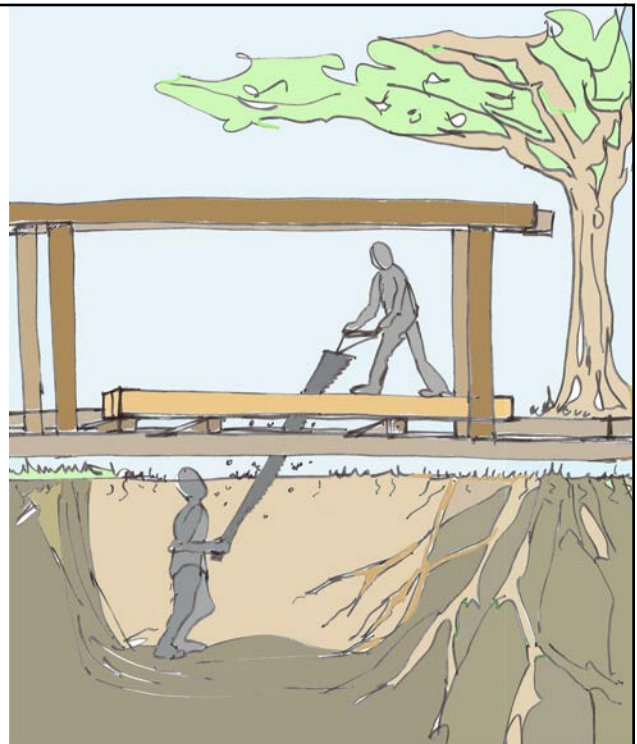
How do **you** handle seemingly meaningless distress?

Pray: seeking God's work in our hearts and lives

The Death and Life of Jesus

Romans 5:1-11

Chinese: page 1827
 Spanish: page 1437
 Brown: page 1130
 Green: page 770



The Letter to the Romans

- From the apostle Paul (who was also known as Saul)
- To the church in Rome
 - Mixture of Jews and Gentiles, with conflict
 - In the midst of a broken world
 - Focused on theology: good thinking about God and the world that leads to good actions and good interactions
- We are looking before and after the verse that Allan covered last week

Romans 5:1-11

1-2: Boast/glory/rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God

3-5: • Jesus' death and resurrection 'justify' those who put

6-8: their faith in Him and His work

9-10: • from being guilty and cut off from God
 • to being considered righteous and accepted by God

11: • Brings **peace** with God

• End of hostility PLUS a relationship of love

• Brings **access** to security and life in the grace of God

• We **rejoice** in hope of our full

future experience of God's glory

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Romans 5:1-11

1-2: Boast/glory/rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God

3-5: Boast/glory/rejoice in our **sufferings**

6-8: • In Christ's love...

- 9-10: • Suffering grows perseverance in us
• Perseverance forms character in us

11: • Character increases our hope and living by hope

- Suffering brings good (is "meaningful") when it is in God's love through the Holy Spirit

- So, we **rejoice in our present experience of suffering** in Christ

- For suffering in Christ increases our hope

- Hope is a muscle that we exercise in suffering

Romans 5:1-11

1-2: Boast/glory/rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God

3-5: Boast/glory/rejoice in our **sufferings**

6-8: Christ's **death** brought once for all **peace** with God

- 9-10: • Jesus enacted God the Father's love
• Jesus saved sinners (enemies of God)

11: by dying in our place

- We had no ability to change from enemies to friends
• Not even the ability to stop becoming worse enemies!

- Jesus turned us from enemies into loved children
by His death

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9-10: Christ's **life** brings present and future **salvation**
from God's wrath against sin → much more!

- 11: • Wrath of God against sin: just suffering, from God, because of ungodly attitudes, words, and actions
- Perhaps both a direct and indirect work of God
 - Includes present and future (the full expression), and individuals as well as communities of people
 - Jesus intercedes to save His people from this wrath
 - Jesus is with His people, even to the end/extreme

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from God's wrath against sin → much more!

11: Boast/glory/rejoice in **God** through Christ

- Not just hope of future glory
- Not just rejoicing in suffering
- We rejoice in knowing and experiencing God, and being known and loved by God, now and forever

The Big Idea

Jesus Christ died to rescue the ungodly

and Jesus Christ lives to save those who are in Christ

bringing peace, wholeness, and goodness with God

Jesus intercedes for us

Jesus is with us

Jesus is compassionate with us

Jesus builds His church

Jesus protects His people

Jesus gave the Spirit to His people

Spirit intercedes for us

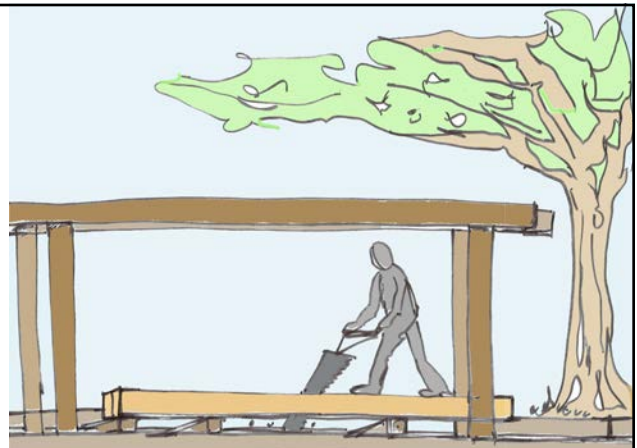
Spirit empowers us

Spirit brings conviction (acceptance of truth)





**Our lives have many troubles
because we live in a world under
the curse for sin
We have been justified by Christ
Yet sometimes it can seem as
though we now have to endure
troubles on our own that may or
may not have value or purpose**

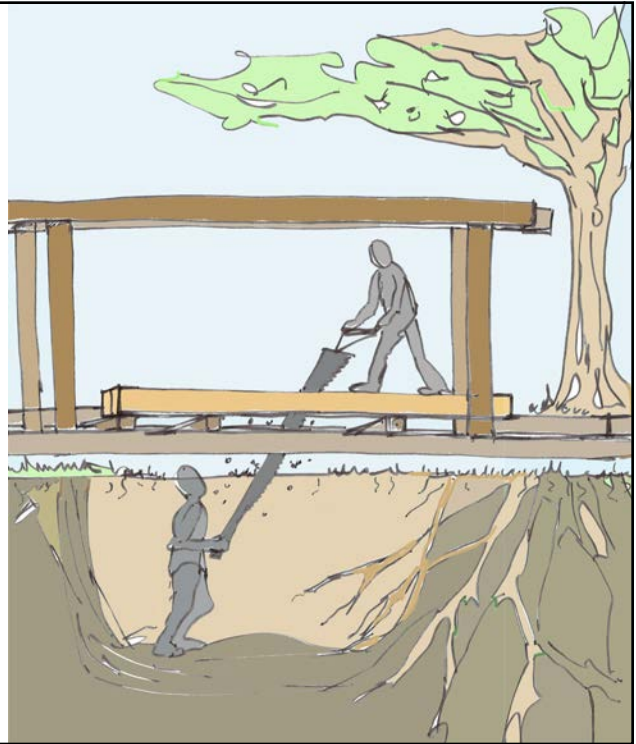


The work of Christ is often invisible to us, yet we are promised that it is just as real and just as powerful as His death for us

“Therefore Jesus is able to **save completely** those who come to God through him, because **he always lives to intercede for them.**”

Hebrews 7:25

intercede = pursue help for us



Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor (and trouble and suffering) *in the Lord* is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

in vain = pointless, without value

Application

- **Glory/joy/boast...**
 - in hope of the future experience of the glory of God
 - in current sufferings
 - Distress has value **in Christ** → building perseverance, character, and hope that does not disappoint
 - Those outside of Christ experience the wrath of God now in part and one day in full
 - Jesus saves those in Christ from this wrath
 - in knowing God Himself
 - Today in part, and in the future in full

Application

- **Glory/joy/boast...**
- **Fix our eyes on Jesus' death and life**
 - Having been justified by His death, how much more are we being saved through trouble by His life!
 - Our trouble has value and brings good **in Christ**
 - So rather than focusing on trouble, focus on the ongoing work of Christ
 - “He (the Father) who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he (the Father) not also, along with him (the Son), graciously give us all things?” *Romans 8:32*

Application

- **Glory/joy/boast...**
- **Fix our eyes on Jesus' death and life**
- **Point each other to look at Jesus' death and life**
 - “And let us consider how we may **spur one another on toward love and good deeds**, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another**—and **all the more** as you see the Day approaching.” *Hebrews 10:24-25*
 - Perseverance is an essential quality of God's people, growing from our hope in distress

The Big Idea

Jesus Christ died to rescue the ungodly and Jesus Christ lives to save those who are in Christ bringing peace, wholeness, goodness with God

- **The presence of sin in the world has brought distress into the world, and will one day bring the full expression of God's wrath**
- **Jesus lives to intercede for those who are in Christ**
- **Our trouble is meaningful in Christ, as He brings good through it, and as He saves us from the full expression of God's wrath**
- **So let us glory in God through Jesus, who has brought peace and hope in God through His death and His life**