

**PAUL'S DISTINCT APOSTLESHIP  
AND  
THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS  
The Believer (Rom. 4-5)**

# **THE FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS LIFE**

- 1. Most Christians fair little better than their unsaved friends because while they have been saved by grace through faith, they continue to trust in the “gods” of fallen humanity.**
- 2. A crisis like this exposes these “gods” for what they truly are: false “gods” and empty idols.**
- 3. For both unbeliever and believer alike, the only answer is the Faith Righteousness because its source is the infinite God and is based on the everlasting Person and Work of Christ.**
- 4. Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness: Faith Righteousness**

# THE FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS LIFE

5. **God preached Good News to Abraham: God promised that He would make him the father of many nations and through his descendants he would bless all the nations of the world (Gal. 3:8).**
  - a. **He believed in the God who makes alive the dead, and whose word creates things out of nothing providing hope (4:17). Paul calls this justification by faith (5:1).**
  - b. **He hoped against all hope, ie., even though from all appearances, it was completely hopeless (4:18). Paul calls this patient endurance (5:3).**
  - c. **He was not weak in faith and he did not stagger at the promise of God through unbelief, knowing that God was able to do what He promised (4:19-21). Paul's calls this proven experience (5:3).**
  - d. **And this is what gave glory to God (4:20). Paul calls this the Hope of Glory (5:2-5).**
  
6. **Faith and Hope are always in things not seen (Rom. 8:24-25; Heb. 11:1)**

# THE FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS LIFE

- 7. Like Abraham, God preached Good News to us today through the Apostle Paul: The Good News of the Death and Resurrection of Christ (Rom. 4:23-25).**
- 8. When we believe in God and His word to us our faith is counted for righteousness: Faith Righteousness.**
- 9. To those related to Him on the basis of Faith Righteousness today, God has promised us perfect provision that is not only sufficient for our past or our future but for our present as well:
  - a. We have peace with God; we have been given a grace standing that gives us ongoing access to the Riches of His Blessings; and this gives us Hope (confident expectation) that we are full participants in God's Glory.**
  - b. These things are perfect and complete, everlasting and infinite, uninterrupted and ongoing, never diminishing and never ending because they are not through us and what we do. They are through Christ and what He does.****

# THE FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS LIFE

- 10. For the life based on Faith Righteousness, tribulations aren't opportunities for us to think God has removed our hope and withdrawn His blessings.**
- 11. For the Life based on Faith Righteousness, tribulations are opportunities that take the life it produces, the Life of Christ that is in us and brings it into our experience on the outside.**
- 12. Tribulations means pressures.**
  - a. When pressure is applied grapes or olives, wine and oil are released.**
  - b. When pressure is applied to the unbeliever, fear, panic and hopelessness are released.**
  - c. When pressure is applied to a believer who is NOT operating on the basis of Faith Righteousness, fear, panic and hopelessness are released.**
  - b. When pressure is applied to the believer who is operating on the basis of Faith Righteousness, patient endurance, tested faith that passes with flying colors, producing even more hope is released, which starts the cycle over again.**
  - e. The end result is the Glory of God. (2 Cor. 4:8-18)**

# THE FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS LIFE

**14. The example of Paul: 2 Cor. 4:8-18**

- 15. Just as we don't determine the status of our relationship with God in the circumstances of life, we also don't determine the status of God's love for us in the circumstances of life.**
- a. We determine the status of our relationship with God through His word.**
  - b. We determine the extent of His love for us at the Cross of Christ.**



# **CALM AND HOPE DURING TIMES OF FEAR AND DESPAIR**

- 1. Wrongly dividing God's Word results in wrongly understanding what He is doing today which always leads to uncertainty, fear, anxiety, despair, panic.**
- 2. Rightly dividing God's Word results in correctly understanding what God is doing today which always leads to patient endurance, comfort, hope, joy. (Rom. 15:1-16)**
- 3. If you don't rightly divide the Bible, you will not have assurance of your salvation and without that you will not have victory in your Christian life.**  
**--Instead of enjoying the peace, blessings and love of God you already have through Christ, you will spend you time trying to obtain and keep it through your own effort and works.**
- 4. As we go from Romans 4 to Romans 5 Paul transitions from believing Abraham to believers today.**
  - 1. Just as Abraham justified by faith and he did not look to the world and human wisdom for his Hope but to God and His Word for his Hope...**
  - 1. So too, we today who have been justified by faith we must not look to the world and human wisdom for our Hope but to God and His Word (Rom. 5:1-5).**

# **CALM AND HOPE DURING TIMES OF FEAR AND DESPAIR**

- 1. Abraham had to wait 25 years for the arrival of the promised son (Rom. 4:18-22).**
  - a. During this time, he didn't look to the circumstances in the world for the basis of His faith—they only spoke about the impossibility of what God promised, or that said God had withdrawn his promises from him.**
  - b. He looked to God and His Word to be the basis of his faith.**
  
- 1. Faith “seen” not in the circumstances of the world, but in revealed Word of God in THE FAITH. (Rom. 8:24; 10:17; Heb. 11:1)**
  
- 1. Believers today are to operate in the same way (Rom. 4:23-5:5).**
  - a. We don't judge God's promises to us by looking at the circumstances of the world. They will only tell us God's promises are impossible or that they have been withdrawn.**
  - b. We judge God's promises to us by looking to God and His Word.**



# **CALM AND HOPE DURING TIMES OF FEAR AND DESPAIR**

- 3. We can be 100% certain of this because:**
  - a. It is through Christ and His Work, not us and our word.**
  - b. In making His enemies participants in His Glory brings glory to Himself.**
- 9. Knowing this enables us to continue glorying based upon our future Hope of being full participants in God's Glory in the present life, which is characterized by outward difficulties. (v.3)**
- 9. Knowing this teaches us that difficulties in life aren't opportunities to question God and His promises to us.**

**--They are opportunities to display what what is true of us on the inside on the outside.**
- 9. For those who have rejected God in unbelief, tribulations/pressures of this life can only squeeze fear, panic and despair out of them.**
- 9. For those justified by faith, however, tribulations/pressures can now squeeze out Patience, Proof and Hope.**
- 9. Suffering in the present is not a sign that God has withdrawn His blessings of the past, present or future.**

# **CALM AND HOPE DURING TIMES OF FEAR AND DESPAIR**

- 9. It is only on the basis of us knowing all that God has given us by faith righteousness that this can occur.**
  - a. Faith comes by hearing and believing God and His Word to us today—THE FAITH.**
  - b. THE FAITH reveals God's Grace for today.**
  - c. The faith provides the ground for our Hope.**
  - d.**
  
- 9. When difficulties come and we operate in accord with faith righteousness doctrine, the life of Christ in us will patient endurance.**
  
- 9. Example of Paul: 2 Cor. 4:15-17—When the Corinthians saw Paul patiently enduring through suffering, they glorify God for it. .**
  
- 9. Suffering in the present is not a sign that God has withdrawn His blessings of the past, present or future.**

# **CALM AND HOPE DURING TIMES OF FEAR AND DESPAIR**

- 9. Suffering doesn't call mean God is against us, or that He has withdrawn His gracious blessings, destroying our hope.**
  
- 9. Suffering in the present displays those who live by faith in God and His Word:**
  - a. In enjoying His peace by faith (rather than thinking God is at war with them) in tribulations we patiently endure.**
  - b. In accessing His infinite free gifts of grace by faith (rather than thinking God has withdrawn His blessings) in tribulations we gain proof that He has equipped us perfectly and completely.**
  - c. In glorying in God's Glory by faith (rather than losing Hope) in tribulations enhances our confidence (Hope) in God's Glory.**
  
- 9. In short: The love of God is not displayed in the circumstance of the world. It is displayed in the crosswork of Christ.**