

**“Our Cries in the Midst of Our Sufferings Are All Part of His Glory”
The Normal Christian Life – Paul's Testimony Still Speaks, Final**

Our Title: “Our Cries in the Midst of Our Sufferings Are All Part of His Glory”

Introduction:

I have titled our study today “Our Cries in the Midst of Our Sufferings Are All Part of His Glory”. We are all aware of life’s trials and how they often leave us in tears. There are eight “cries” I would highlight for you this morning. They all have or could have changed history. I could refer to many more if I went to the Old Testament. But we will stay with the New, this morning.

(1) The Multitudes on Palm Sunday (and today is Palm Sunday according to the common Christian Church calendar):

Matthew 21:8-11

8 And a **very great multitude** spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed *them* in the way.

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, **Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.**

10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, **Who is this?**

11 And the multitude said, **This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.**

[READ] Luke 19:37-40

37 And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, **the whole multitude of the disciples** began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

38 Saying, **Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.**

39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.

40 And he answered and said unto them, **I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.**

(2) The Multitudes, some time later:

Luke 23:13-21

13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers **and the people,**

14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined *him* before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

16 I will therefore chastise him, and release *him*.

17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)

18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this *man*, and release unto us Barabbas:

19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)

20 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them.

21 But they cried, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify him.

- Who was this “multitude”, we wonder? Did it include those from that day of our Lord’s “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem?

(3) Our Lord’s, in the Garden, or Our Lord’s, on the Mount of Olives:

Luke 22:39-44

39 And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.

40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

(4) Our Lord’s, on the cross:

Mark 15:33-34

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

(5) Stephen's:

Acts 7:59-60

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

(6) The Holy Spirit's:

Romans 8:26, 27-28

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

(7) Our Own Cries:

Romans 8:22-25

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

(8) The Apostle Paul's Cries For Us:

Acts 20:26-32

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

2 Corinthians 12:15

And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

2 Timothy 4:16-18

16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.

17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- **All these cries changed or still change history, don't they? Today, then, in this study, I want to focus carefully again on our own cries and what they may signify about our own walk in this life granted to us by our blessed Lord.**

Our Outline: "Our Cries in the Midst of Our Sufferings Are All Part of His Glory"

- ***Prayer Is at the Heart of All that God Is Doing, Not Ours But His***
- ***Our Ignorance Regarding Prayer Is Only A Part of Our Weaknesses***
- ***The Normal Christian Life Can Only Be Lived By Sharing In His Working***

I. *Prayer Is at the Heart of All that God Is Doing, Not Ours But His:*

Romans 8:26-28

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

- We must receive the answers of God to our prayers, for they are the will of God as the Spirit has requested. We do not know his will, so we cannot pray with understanding. But the Spirit can and does because he does know the perfect will of Almighty God. Amen.
- The exhortation in Philipians is so important:

[READ] Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with *[with == “meta” in Gk. meaning “after”]* thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep *[meaning watch over or protect]* your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- The teachings of Romans 8 and Philippians 4 about our prayers emphasize how our Lord God expects us to pray: with full understanding that God's will is always supreme. Therefore, our thanksgiving in every situation of life is truly fundamental. Following that, our requests may be added with complete submission to His will.

II. Our Ignorance Regarding Prayer Is Only A Part of Our Weaknesses:

- Yes, it may be readily accepted that living Godly will lead to suffering or persecution. So requesting deliverance from that is, in its very nature, inappropriate. But Paul, our example, was enabled to rise above that. And in his other trials, he was delivered as well, even from the other trials in life, the infirmities of the flesh? Though they are often overwhelming, and we may often cry out for deliverance, our apostle had learned to live above them as we read in these verses:

[READ] 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me **a thorn in the flesh**, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- The context here is a “Thorn in the flesh”. In Romans 8, it is the curse on the creation. In neither case were the trials from persecution directly, although the persecutors of believers may often base their accusations on purely physical (or fleshly) matters. I am sure for Paul that was often true, with his eyesight and speech infirmities always a challenge. In the Romans, it is written in this way:

[READ] Romans 8:18-26

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- So our ignorance in prayer matters is only a part of our weakness, for we are of the race of Adam, and all suffer in this life. The curse came upon the entire creation, and mankind is at the center of that from our human perspective. Verses 19 - 23 are about our sufferings in the body, as the words “the redemption of our body” indicate. This is indeed a matter of life and death. Persecutions are added above and beyond this.
- Quite sadly, therefore, our prayers are often focused on the physical realm. Is that because that is where our minds dwell most of the time, on the physical and not on the spiritual?

Well, our subject here is the Normal Christian Life and how that may be lived with the empowering of Almighty God, under grace.

III. The Normal Christian Life Can Only Be Lived By Sharing In His Working:

- Chapter 7 ends with these words:

Romans 7:24-25

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

- The ending of chapter 8 is this:

[READ] Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- These words are the capstone on this marvelous teaching, intended to be the basis for our hope. The grand question in chapter 7, “Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” has its answer in the whole of chapter 8. And in its concluding verses, our apostle finishes his testimony intended to become ours as well, that as “more than conquerors”, our Lord God, through his only son and our savior, Christ Jesus, has provided the solution. And we are right in the center of it.

So be encouraged! His grace truly is sufficient. Paul was persuaded. Are we? These words have the power to ensure that end, praise God.

- **With so much revealed about how the Lord God is working in and through us, including our sufferings, will we receive this teaching, live in the light of it, or turn away? On our life’s journey, from glory to glory, we reach many turning points, crisis points. What shall be the conviction of our hearts, that we may be prepared for them? For if we are not prepared in advance, we shall surely be unprepared for those trials of our faith.**
- Agreed? But, as our apostle has written, our cries to the Lord continue:

Romans 8:23-25

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

- Our cries shall continue, and what will their fruit be? Here it is written that they should be with hope and much patience of the spirit, the blessed persuasion that our beloved apostle Paul had gained, even as we have just read:

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me **a thorn in the flesh**, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- Amen? Amen. So be it.

Some Final Thoughts / Conclusions:

- Do you know the Lord through the saving grace via his gospel and by way of faith alone -- with no works even involved?
 - Or have you never come to him on his terms, in his way, recognizing that his shed blood was sufficient payment for all of your sins, past, present, and future, and that his resurrection is a reality.
- Do you know him daily and moment by moment - are you walking with him? Or are you living your life out in the realm of the flesh and the world and not enjoying the blessings of his abundant grace?
- And HOW are we suffering? Have the Apostle's words here in this eighth chapter of Romans made a difference? Have they been written our hearts?
- FINALLY, are we encouraged?
 - Well, the blessings God has granted to us believers under grace are great indeed. And they are all of grace and never of works. So the apostle can speak quite authoritatively and with great power concerning all of us.
- Praise God for his grace and the new life that we have in Christ. He dwells within.
- And his promise is that we shall be delivered once and for all one day from all of

the trials of this life as we suffer together with him -- HEAVEN'S GLORY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, BELOVED!!

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.