

Friday, December 5, 2014

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:1-5

The last few years have not been easy ones for my family. We have faced life-threatening illness and stressful financial difficulties as the business we built over the past 30 years has struggled to near failure and absorbed most of our wealth and retirement savings. Yet through our faith in Jesus Christ, we have hope for the future, not only for our physical health, but for financial security, and for salvation, undeserving as we are.

This is only possible because on that first Christmas Day, God gave us all the greatest gifts that we could possibly receive—grace, hope and salvation through faith in His only Son, our Lord. Without Jesus, without faith in Jesus, all that we have enjoyed and accumulated here on earth is nothing. If we put our faith in material things, we die with them when they are gone. But God is everlasting and God is love, and we have access to Him through His gift to us of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Father, help us understand that our health, our wealth and our only hope lies in You, who gave us everything we have or could hope for, and who loves us and will care for us even now as we go forward in our lives. Thank You for all that we have and help us glorify Your name in all that we do. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hank Copeland