Suffering - Romans 5:3-4

**And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;**

Most of us here today can agree this year has been especially hard. It started on a very high note. Our Church was finished and we were able to come together and fellowship in our new church building. We rebuilt and came together in this beautiful church that God blessed us with. I am sure it infuriated Satan for us to give God all the Glory. Somehow we knew that we were going to be attacked and He has been relentless on some of us.

Paul knew the ups and downs of ministry and the ups and downs of living for God. Whether it was family disowning him or unexpected deaths and persecution at every angle. He knew that when you live for God on this side of glory, Satan will try and derail you at every opportunity He can to stomp out your witness and cause doubt in your mind. Satan knows he cannot have your soul but He will try to steal your joy and ruin your testimony.

Most of us know that Satan attacks us but just remember the words of Paul in this devotional, “Celebrate in our tribulations”. James also said “Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

This life is hard, but as a Christian it gets harder still. Jesus told us as much. The difference between Christians and the world is that we have an ultimate hope and ultimate Joy in Jesus Christ. We know that this life is, as James said, “but a vapor”. We are only here a little while in comparison to eternity. We know that all this pain and suffering will be over and God will make things right. He will wipe our tears away and heal our hearts of all the pain we feel here on earth.

Remember this week that Jesus Christ never leaves or forsakes us, He is with us always and will always be with us. We have a friend that sticks closer than a brother. We have ultimate joy and we can overcome all this world has to throw at us.

Classes may take their place