

# The Liberty Loop

Liberty Center Youth Newsletter

August 2023  
Volume 5

There are three truths that I want you to read here with today:

## **Love hurts - Love costs - God's Love never fails!**

The early Christian church in Rome knew that Love hurt, and they knew that Love costed them dearly. They were severely persecuted for following Christ, and that persecution led them to question, doubt, and perhaps even to begin to lose their faith. But Paul continually reminded them to stay strong and stay the course; because the best is yet to come.

Paul says, beginning in chapter 5 of Romans, Verse one. *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand"*

At the beginning of chapter 5, Paul wants to remind the Romans that they have already gained access to God's grace which is what gives them grace to stand through trials, suffering and persecution. This is God's "AMAZING GRACE" - This grace is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead- the power we share as those who, according to both Paul's letter to the Colossians and his letter to the church at Ephesus, are RAISED WITH Christ.

This grace is the power that the Holy Spirit deposits to those that are in Christ as a promise of greater things to come.

Paul wanted the Christians of the city of Rome to understand that the Holy Spirit was completely available to them from the moment they believed, they were filled with the same power that was within Jesus Christ to do all of the things Christians were called to do – including endure trials and sufferings – things they were enduring because of their love of Christ.

The problem with the Roman congregation is not that they did not have the power of the Holy Spirit through the Grace of God, but they had a hard time trusting the power – trusting God's grace in the midst of their hardships, persecutions, and suffering.

Paul continues to encourage them to use the grace and power given to them, *"and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings,"*

Boast in Suffering?!?!?

Paul, even in his imprisonment, continues to boast about the love and grace of God. How many of us could find ourselves in prison, whipped, beaten, yet still counting it all joy and love for the grace of God? Paul is setting an example of Christian endurance and perseverance through his own suffering.

Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer remarks much the same sentiment in his text, *The Cost of Discipleship*. Bonhoeffer was imprisoned during World War II by Hitler's SS, eventually being hung not long before his prison was liberated by allied forces. During his imprisonment, he wrote *The Cost of Discipleship*, and it has become one of the most prolific Christian texts on true discipleship and how it relates to Christian suffering.

Whatever you are going through, just know that this life here on earth is not the end. It is all temporary.

I pray this month that you can boast in your suffering like Paul and Bonhoeffer.



## Upcoming Events:

- \* July 31st—Youth Leaders' Meeting 6 PM
- \* August 9th—Scavenger Hunt in the LC
- \* August 23rd—First Wednesday Night Youth. Junior High at 6:30, Senior High at 7:15
- \* August 10th—The County Fair begins
- \* September 15 – 16th—Ichthus Music Festival



*The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace. Psalms 29:11*

Last Newsletter's Answer:  
Your Name

New Riddle:

What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Take another letter away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left. What is the word?

Save the Dates:

- \*\* September 6th—Community Service Night
- \*\* October 28th—Youth Mystery Dinner Night. Join us for a role play mystery dinner evening!
- \*\* November 17th—Outing to watch the Toledo Walleye.
- December 13th—Youth Christmas Party