

God's Benefit Package For Us

(Insights from Romans 5:1-11)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, October 29th, 2017

The Passage:

(Romans 5:1-11)

Benefits of Becoming A Christ follower:

1. **A new P _____** (v1)
The benefit of ...
John 1:12
2. **A new P _____** (v2a)
The benefit of ...
Luke 23:44-46, Ephesians 2:13-14; 3:11-12, Romans 8:15
3. **A new P _____** (v2b)
The benefit of ...
Hebrews 11:1, 1 John 3:2, Colossians 3:1-4,
2 Timothy 2:11-12, Romans 8:15-17, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
4. **A new P _____** (v3-5)
The benefit of ...
Philippians 4:12-13, Corinthians 4:16-18

God's Plan When Pain Shows Up ...

- 1) **Don't be _____**
John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 4:12-13; 1:6-7, Hebrews 5:8
- 2) **If you can, _____ . If you can't, _____ .**
Matthew 26:36-46, Acts 12:1-17; 9:23-25; 22:22-29, Romans 15:30-31
- 3) **Rejoice _____ it, not _____ it.**
Romans 5:3-5, 1 Thess. 4:13; 5:18, 1 Corinthians 10:6-10
- 4) **Let it d _____ you, but not d _____ you.**
1 Cor. 10:13, Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4, 2 Cor. 1:3-4, Hebrews 4:15

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to "Week 8" of this Fall season of our small groups at GPC! After this meeting, we only have two more meetings left! This is a 10 week session of small groups as we will wrap up the week of November 12th. Our small groups are where folks move from 'believers' to 'belongers'. May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships as we meet together this fall to pray, support each other, and study God's Word together.

Looking Back:

Each week we'll look back and have an opportunity to share with our group how the past few days went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better.

What is something encouraging since our last meeting we can rejoice with you about or not so encouraging that we can offer support?

Bob started last Sunday's message saying that we all have experiences (good and bad) that change us from that point on. What is a happy experience that you can think of that impacted your life long after the experience.

Life's experiences is a mixture of good and bad. When it comes to suffering, last Sunday we were encouraged to avoid it if we can and if that is not possible to accept it asking God to use it for good in our lives.

Can you think of a difficulty that you were able to avoid?

How has God used one of the difficulties in your life for your good that you were not able to avoid?

Endurance is something that we all need. Growing up, what was an early experience where you developed endurance to the point that you were able to do something that you didn't think you could do?

Each week in 'looking back', we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and have an opportunity to share how we applied something to our daily lives that God prompted us last week from the Bible.

Looking Up:

As part of looking up and seeing what God can teach us this week, was there anything from last Sunday's message that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or needs some clarification?

1. Bob mentioned our relationship with God brings a different view of suffering and pointed to the refinement process that happens to us through our suffering. As we go through the refinement process listed in Romans 5:3-4, we see important steps for how we are to be matured and refined. How do the following verses expand our understanding of how God refines us through suffering?

2 Thessalonians 1:4-5

James 1:1-2

James 1:12

1 Peter 1:6-7

Can you think of any ways God's refinement process has played out in your own life?

2. Many of us didn't grow up hearing Biblical stories about suffering or sermons on the topic. Because of this it can be difficult to follow Jesus and still experience hardship, challenges or loss. It's important to remember, when we suffer and are challenged, we still get to choose how we respond to our circumstances. How did the people in the following verses respond to Jesus in the midst of their challenges in a way that could help us respond to Jesus in our trials today?

John 4:4-42

Mark 5:25-34

How might the women have responded to Jesus if they had let their circumstances define them?

Can you think of any ways you let your circumstances define you if you are not careful?

3. It can be humbling when we realize Jesus takes us, flaws and all, and gives us a new identity as a forgiven, adopted son or daughter. This truth impacts everyone differently but could be hard to embrace if you feel undeserving. How could the following verses help someone who is struggling to embrace their new identity in Christ?

Galatians 2:20

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

1 John 5:1-5

Which of these verses is most meaningful to you and why?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's all take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking ...

- Knowing the importance of spending regular time with God each day, I am going to try and have a consistent Quiet Time with God each day reading a portion of the Bible and praying.
- I will look back and re-read the passage on this outline and ask God to give me further insight related to growing through suffering.
- I will make a list of people I know who are experiencing difficulty and will daily pray that God will strengthen and sustain them.
- As difficulties come up this week, rather than being surprised by it, I will ask God for strength to trust Him through it.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!