## Introduction:

Seeing each chapter in connection to its context is critical to the understanding of it. Review the brief outline of the first chapters we have so far completed.

A. Paul proved that all men, Gentile and Jew, need righteousness outside of themselves (Ch. 1-3:20).

- B. Paul describes the way this universal need is met (Ch. 3:21-5:21)
  - 1. God's provision in Christ Jesus (3:21-31)
  - 2. The Old Testament precedent of Abraham and David (4:1-25)
  - 3. The blessings that accompany justification by faith (5:1-11)
  - 4. The solidarity between the Old and New Testament regarding imputation (5:12-21)
- 1. Paul announced that those justified by faith have peace with God through Jesus Christ. (vs. 1)
  - a. Is this God's peace or our peace?
  - b. Is this peace the same as the 'peace of God' mentioned in Philippians 4?
  - c. What is the cause of this peace of God and how is that truth an unspeakable comfort?
  - d. Is this a peace we need to experience to have it or peace we need to believe to experience it?
- 2. What are the fruits of this peace as listed in the further verses of our study?
- 3. In verse 11 Paul speaks about 'joy in God'. Make a list of all the truths given in vs. 1-11 we are to rejoice in.
- 4. Paul wrote 'we have access ... into this grace." What 'grace' is he referring to? Is this grace in which we stand and rejoice in?
- 5. We may sense a hesitancy to draw near to God's throne in prayer. Why might one experience that? How is the truth of this verse to remedy that?
- 6. Is to rejoice a grace give or a calling commanded?
- 7. How is it possible for a believer to rejoice in the tribulations?
- 8. How are we to understand that the tribulations endured proves more and more the state of grace in a person's heart? Note on the word 'experience' (vs. 4) *And patience (works), Experience.* Experience in the Greek means 'trial or proof'. In this context the patient enduring of the trials proves someone's faith to be genuine and that he or she is not 'fair-weather

professor.' Trials prove the genuineness of the tried person's faith but also of God's faithfulness and power which enables us to overcome every difficulty.

- 9. Did Paul teach that tribulations *only* work patience and experience and hope in the believer's heart?
- 10. Notice that these verses begin with hope and end with hope. Compare these two hopes.
- 11. Is the 'love of God shed abroad' God's love to us or our love to God? How does the context help us here to interpret this well?
- 12. What comforting truth about the Holy Spirit is stated in this verse?

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- 13. How will the sense of the love of God help us to glory in tribulations and hope in the glory of future?
- 14. From the verses 6-11 develop a definition of God's love for us His people. Make a list of every aspect of His love Paul here exalts. (And take some time to stand in awe!)
- 15. Jesus' death satisfied God's wrath for His elect. Yet it appears in verse 9 that he speaks about 'saved from wrath' of those who are 'now justified'. How are we to see this?
- 16. The same question applies to vs. 10. His people are reconciled, yet he wrote they 'shall be' saved by His life. How does work?