

The Critical Journey  
Week 3 outline 11/5/23  
Rom 5:5-1  
Matt Vaught

## Groundhog Day

### Escaping the Eddy

**1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

## I. The Heart of the Question: How Do We Get Out of the Eddy?

### A. Critical Journey Recap

- Descriptive, not prescriptive
- Give language to our journey with Jesus
- Stage 1: humbles us
- Stage 2: grounds us
- Stage 3: rewards us
- Stage 4: unsettles us
- Stage 5: transforms us
- Stage 6: transcends us
- Often after the first 3 stages we find ourselves asking: "Is this it?"

A FAITH THAT HAS NEVER BEEN STRUGGLED WITH IS A FAITH THAT ISN'T OWNED

### B. What causes us to eddy?

### Three Possible Reasons:

- 1- We Resist the wall: because it hurts
- 2- We Avoid the wall: because we're hurried
- 3- We Ignore the wall: because it seems hopeless

Rather than resisting, avoiding, or ignoring, what if there was a way to carefully and intentionally move forward?

## II. At The Heart of The Answer is Hope

## A. Our Past, Our Present, Our Future

1. Vs 1: We have *been justified* by faith: PAST TENSE  
 -so... we *have peace* with God: PRESENT TENSE  
 -HOW?: "through Christ": It's not the quality or quantity of our faith that saves us, but the object of our faith who saves us: Christ Jesus

2. Vs 2a: Through him we *have gained* access by faith: PAST TENSE  
           -into this grace in which we *now stand*: PRESENT TENSE
3. Vs 2b-4: And we boast (to rejoice/to glory) in the hope of the glory of God  
           ...we rejoice in the glory of God who gives us hope: FUTURE TENSE  
           -and we glory (to boast/to rejoice) in our sufferings: PRESENT TENSE

### **B. Why is Suffering a Necessary Part to Our Journey?**

- Because vs 3 says: "*we know that suffering produces*"
- 1. Suffering produces Perseverance (endurance, steadfastness, patient waiting)
- 2. Perseverance produces Character (proof of genuineness, what is tried and true)
- 3. Character produces Hope

OUR HOPE IS THE EXPECTATION OF WHAT IS SURE TO COME  
 AND THE ANTICIPATION OF WHAT IS TRUE FOREVER

### **III. An Invitation Towards Hope**

- 3 ways we might consider beginning the process of journeying forward:
- 1. LET GO
  - Choose to let go of the past rather than resisting
- 2. MAKE TIME
  - Choose to make time rather than avoiding
  - This must be done carefully, intentionally, and appropriately
- 3. ASK FOR HELP
  - Ask for help rather than ignoring
  - Romans 5:5

### **LIFEgroup questions:**

1. Do you think "the wall" is a critical piece to our Journey of faith? Is it possible to have hope without going through suffering and why? How does Scripture re-shape your answer?
2. Describe a time in your life when you "edded" rather than moving forward. What were some of the contributing factors that kept you from being willing to move through the wall?
3. What factors have contributed to seasons of breakthrough, healing, or growth in your own story? Where might you be sensing the Holy Spirit's work currently in your life?