

You may not be a football fan, but hopefully you saw the interview of Philadelphia Eagles' coach, Doug Pederson, at the end of the Super Bowl earlier this month. In victory he gave all the glory to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Even we find it easy to give God the credit and praise when times are good. However, Romans 5 commands us to rejoice during suffering. That's when it gets tough. As we reflect this week on all the blessings that God has showered on MEFC, let's remember to rejoice in our sufferings as well.

Getting To Know You

1. Describe a time when someone (besides God) extended grace to you. How did that make you feel?

2. What's the worst trial you ever went through? How did it affect you? What did you learn?

Into the Bible

1. Read Romans 5:1-2 [page 2]. What does it mean to have peace with God, and how is it accomplished? How is this different from, and superior to, peaceful circumstances or feelings?

2. Why do you think God allows suffering and tribulation into the Christian's life?

3. In reading Romans 5: 6-8 [page 2], what three words describe those for whom Christ died?

4. What do the trials that you go through add to your Christian witness?

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Rom. 5: 1-8

Taking It Home

1. Make a list of how you've grown through your trials.

2. Do you “glory in God?” How has this made a profound difference in your life, and how have you become helpful to others? Seek to share your trials with a fellow believer as a means of encouragement.
