**Our God of Patience**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 15:1-5**

**Wednesday Evening**

**April 9, 2025**

**Romans 15:1-5**

1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

**1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.**

Saints, Paul identifies himself as one of the “strong” who knows that these things (issues of food and drink) make no difference when it comes to salvation.

**Galatians 6:2-3**

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

**1 Corinthians 10:23-24**

23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. 24 Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

Saints, yet these strong believers are not to live just to please themselves.

They have an obligation to be considerate of the doubts and fears of those who think these things are wrong.

They may find themselves frustrated by the failings of the weak—their concerns and worries over what, to the strong, seems trivial.

But the responsibility lies with the strong to maintain harmony in the church by bearing with these brothers and sisters.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-15**

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

Stronger believers demonstrate their spiritual strength precisely at those moments when they are practicing compassion for those who are weaker.

The kind of strength modeled by Christ allowed him to put up with our failings. We ought to do the same for one another.

**2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.**

Saints, the strong believer must never be self-centered, but must be concerned for the spiritual welfare of his neighbor—the weaker person beside him or her in the congregation.

To please others is done with a goal in mind—to encourage and build up that other believer in the faith.

**Ephesians 4:29-32**

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

There is a fine line to walk—the stronger person should not push the weaker one to change his or her ways before he or she is ready;

Saints, neither should the stronger person pander to the scruples of that weaker one by allowing such scruples to become rules for the church.

Instead, the stronger believers should bear with and work to help the weaker believers in their faith; this will benefit the church as a whole.

**3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."**

Saints, Christ was the “strongest” human who ever lived—he didn’t please himself, but did God’s will.

Certainly death on a cruel cross was not the path he would have chosen to please himself, but his mission was to please God.

**John 4:44-45**

44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. 45 So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.

**John 5:30**

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

**John 8:29**

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

Strength is not independence from God, but total dependence on God.

Strength in the church doesn’t come from each believer being completely independent, but from mutual interdependence.

Truly strong believers are those who are willing to limit their freedoms in order to care for and love their weaker brothers and sisters.

Paul quotes from Psalms69:9. This messianic Psalms prophesied the Messiah’s coming into the world and what would happen to him.

**Psalm 69:9**

Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Christ faced reproach and insults because he did not choose to please himself; instead, he chose to do what God had called him to do.

How much more should we, who are called by his name, also choose to please God rather than ourselves.

**4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.**

Saints, the Scriptures (here referring to the Old Testament) were written and preserved for future generations.

**2 Peter 1:19-21**

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Our scriptural knowledge affects our attitude toward the present and the future.

**Hebrews 6:18-20**

18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

The more we know about what God has done in years past, the greater will be our confidence in what he will do in the days ahead.

We should read our Bible diligently to increase our trust that God’s will is best for us.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

How does the Bible give us hope and encouragement? Here are 4 Biblical points to view.

**1. God’s attributes and character constantly remind us in whom our hope.**

**Psalm 46:1-2**

1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

**2. The biographies of saints who overcame great obstacles give us examples of what can be done with God’s help**

**Hebrews 11:6-7**

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

**3. The direct exhortation of Scripture calls for endurance and speaks encouragement.**

**James 1:2-4**

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**4. The prophetic statements support our hope for a wonderful future planned for us in eternity**

**Romans 5:1-5**

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Paul admonishes strong believers not to please themselves but to please God and others.

Scripture records stories of those who pleased God, those who didn’t, and those who failed but learned from their mistakes.

We are to endure as Christ endured and be encouraged by the examples of other believers.

This gives us hope as we wait patiently for God’s promises.

**5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,**

Saints, the patience and encouragement received from the Scriptures have their ultimate source in God, for the Scriptures are his.

Paul asks God to give the believers an attitude of harmony—Jews and Gentiles, weak and strong—as they seek to follow Christ.

This prayer is strikingly similar to the one Jesus prayed with his disciples at the end of his final meal with them.

**John 17:22-23**

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**