**Making Sense of Suffering**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **Romans 5:1-5**

1. **We suffer in light of what God will do**

* God’s work is described in three stages: Endurance, Character, Hope
* **Philippians 1:6**, “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
* We can rejoice in suffering because we suffer in light of what God is currently doing

1. **We suffer in light of what God has done**

* **2 Corinthians 4:17-18** “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”
* We can rejoice in suffering because we know one day it will end in eternal glory