

## The Christian's Great Cause for Rejoicing and Patience

**Ver. 12.** — *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

Several times Scripture enjoins us, as God's people, to "rejoice in the Lord"? As the Apostle Paul emphasized it in his letter to the church at Philippi where he wrote; "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" And then he added, "*Again I will say, rejoice!*" (Phil 4:4)

And we do have so much about which to rejoice, especially when we think upon our Lord, His person, His offices, His power, His love and our salvation in Him. But I find it most interesting that in the midst of Paul's instruction in godly living he includes as one of our duties that we are to "*Rejoice in hope.*" And then he follows this by commanding us to "be patient in tribulation". And when we think on this indeed, being patient in tribulation should be a natural outcome of our hope in Christ. And finally he commands us to be to be constant in prayer.

Let us then consider this verse under these three headings this morning, 1) We are to rejoice in Hope, 2) We are to be patient in tribulation, and 3) We are to be constantly in prayer.

A. We are to rejoice in hope - Let us then consider the Christian's great cause for rejoicing

1. It has two solid foundations.

- a. The absolute and sure truthfulness of God's written Word
- b. The faithfulness of God Himself

*Ps 119:89-90 "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations."*

2. Thus the hope here is in reference to what God has **promised/declared** in His word.

- a. That is, it is not a hope based upon some misguided fortune the world calls "luck".
- b. Nor is it a hope based upon mere speculation
- c. Rather, it is based upon a sure foundation for it is founded on the unchangeable promise of God

*Ezek 37:26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and **it shall be an everlasting covenant with them**; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.*

d. Therefore, it is a hope that brings a sure comfort.

*Heb 6:19-20 This hope we have **as an anchor of the soul**, both **sure and steadfast**, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus*

*1 Thess 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*

3. It is not the prospect of earthly or worldly possessions in which we rejoice, but of a dwelling eternal in the heavens.

a. As children of Abraham our hope is an eternal city

*Heb 11:9-10 faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he **waited for the city which has foundations**, whose builder and maker is God.*

*Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

- b. As redeemed it is the glorious future hope of someday being in the very presence of our Lord, of seeing Him face to face.

*1 Thess 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you **in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?***

*John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that **where I am, there you may be also.***

4. What greater joy or cause for hope can we desire than the hope of so great a blessing as a home eternal in the heavens.

B. We are to be patient in tribulation

1. This can be so because our hope is in a future glory and not in a present state.
2. Present trials cannot compare to the glory that will be ours in Christ Jesus.

*Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

3. With Paul we can count any loss here or any present conditions as but dung.

*Phil 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.***

- a. This is why Paul could sign at the midnight hour in the jail at Philippi after being beaten and placed in stocks. (Act 16:23-25)
- b. Be patient the greatest of rewards is before us.

C. We are to continue faithfully in prayer.

1. Our Christian warfare is constant.
2. Therefore the need for God's grace and strength is continual therefore our seeking of God's aid should be continual.
3. We must always be aware that without Him we can do nothing.
4. Prayer then should be a constant in our lives.
5. Should be a persistent activity in our daily walk. (Knock - keep knocking, seek -- ask )

CONCLUSION: We are firmly established in great hope with respect to future glory.

What could be greater for us as God's people than a glorious future World?

It raises us above any fear of man and concern for worldly honors.

We learn patience knowing that we have a peace the world cannot give.

Ever being mindful that our hope is founded on the unchangeable promise of God

And that our King, our Prophet and our High Priest has provided for our every need.

Heb 6:19-20 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.