

# **The Love of God Shed Abroad**

(Rom 5:5)

- Paul has been showing that one of the marks of assurance of salvation is the way in which tribulations edify the true Christian, rather than drive them away as the testings do the mere professor of Christianity
- Having gone through the circular teaching and arrived back at hope, he now begins a new element:

## I. “Hope maketh not ashamed” (present tense)

A) Paul here uses the figure of speech called litotes, as he did in Rom 1:16

1. This hope of the Christian never puts a person to shame, it instead upholds and glorifies even in calamities and attacks

B) 2 Tim 1:12- Paul was not ashamed in prison, as a prisoner is generally

1. This is based on Who and what he knows
2. 2 Tim 1:15-18- The example of Onesiphorus
  - i. 2 Tim 1:8- Timothy seems tempted to fall to this shame
    - a) “If your message is true, why then did this Messiah die, and why is your apostle in prison?”
    - b) “Why does your God allow all this suffering?”
    - c) Compare the shame of suffering for someone who turns out not to love you
  - ii. Psa 119:116- “Sustain me, that I be not shamed in my hope”
3. The Christian must expect these things to come to pass, and if we don’t, then we are liable to be ashamed at their occurrence

C) True hope is never damaged by suffering, it instead grows under the pressure of it

1. Rom 8:37- More than conquerors (we not only come thru them, we gain by them)
  - i. Look at the examples of the Christian martyrs

## II. How?

A) Terms

1. “Because”- the explanation of this outcome
2. “The love of God” is revealed to us
  - i. This is not our love of God, but His love for us made known to us
  - ii. Paul is explaining the same pattern he brought out to the Corinthians:
    - a) 1 Cor 12:31-13:13- Faith → Hope → Love (final outcome)
3. “Is shed abroad”- poured out, flooded, overflows
  - i. Acts 2:17 & 33- Holy Spirit poured out
  - ii. Acts 1:18- Judas guts “gushed out”
4. “In”- inside, within, internal, (originating within and flooding forth)
  - i. John 4:14- The well of water springing forth

5. “Our hearts”- the soul, the center of our being (not simply the mind)
- B) The Holy Spirit (already indwelling the believer) makes us certain of God’s love for us
  1. Rom 8:14-16- The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit
    - i. 1 John 4:16- “We have known and believed God’s love for us”
  2. Notice the order in Rom 5:1-5 (faith-hope-love)
    - i. Our assurance is at first by doctrine
    - ii. Then by experience in response/outcome of tribulations
    - iii. Finally by the surety and emotion of love made known by the Holy Spirit
      - a) Similar to the experience between husband and wife
  3. This “love of God shed abroad” is nothing something we work out, or something we convince ourselves of, or a conclusion we reach
    - i. There is the assurance of faith which is a deduction or conclusion, and that is proper
    - ii. There is the assurance of experience, and that is proper
    - iii. But this is something all together different
      - a) This is something the Holy Spirit does “to us”
        - 1) John 14:21- “I will manifest myself to him”
        - 2) Rev 3:20-21- I will come and supp
        - 3) Eph 3:16-19- To know the love of God
        - 4) Luke 11:13- Father will give of the Spirit to those seeking
        - 5) Gal 4:6- Spirit sent into hearts crying Abba Father
      - b) Rom 8:9- This is not the indwelling of the Spirit/regeneration
        - 1) Not all Christians receive this
          - (a) It seems the first Christians did all receive it in establishing the foundations of Christianity
      - c) This is the highest form of assurance possible
        - 1) Rom 5:6-11- Remember Paul is teaching here on assurance, and goes on to provide us with a sample of the love and faithfulness of God
  4. Examples
    - i. Horatio Spafford- It Is Well With My Soul
    - ii. D.L. Moody
    - iii. Henry Venn
    - iv. Charles Simeon
    - v. Dawn Hampton :)