

“Three Expressions of Resting Grace”

1 Thess. 5:16-18

The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People

It is against the backdrop of suffering, hardship, sorrow, loss, and pain that we find our present thought. Can we comprehend the weight of what Paul is saying?

I. The Will of God in Suffering

A. The will of God chose you for salvation (1:4).

B. The will of God chose you for suffering (3:3, 4).

The rule of God over all things is never a license to sin or an excuse for sin, but it forms for the weary, the downtrodden, and broken a comfort in sin. No one who is there wants to be there, but there they are! What are we to make of it? Ultimately, you and I are there by divine appointment.

II. The Work of Grace in Suffering

Fallen flesh is incapable of producing the actions called for. The paradox of this scenario must not escape us.

A. The fruit of habitual joy

The joy spoken of is a calm happiness, cheerfulness.

B. The fruit of ceaseless prayer

There is a mystery to prayer and the outworking of God's will that I might never understand, but I do not have to understand it in order to pray.

C. The fruit of endless gratitude

Two aspects of our gratitude are emphasized.

1. The reach of our gratitude is in everything.

2. The reason for our gratitude is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

The last statement of verse 18 is a conclusion for all three imperatives. Rejoice in everything “pray in everything”, and give thanks in everything.