

Character Building

The Roman Christians were being persecuted on many fronts. In Romans 5:3 the Apostle Paul urges the Roman Christians to *rejoice in our sufferings*, not “because of” but “in.” Paul does not advocate a morbid view of life but a joyous and triumphant one. In verses 4-5 he says: *suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope and hope does not put us to shame*. The word “character” paints the picture of a soldier who has been tested in battle. A Christian’s “character” means that they are real. They are strong, genuine and authentic. Christians do not rejoice in suffering per se, but they realize that God can produce good things through suffering, including and especially character.