

**DESIDERATA<sup>1</sup>**  
**PACKAGE DEAL—ALL EXPENSES PAID!**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2008**  
**Romans 5:1-11**

**BIG IDEA: GOD HAS GIVEN US A BUMPER-TO-BUMPER UNLIMITED WARRANTY.**

**I. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF PEACE WITH GOD**

**Romans 5:1**, *We have peace with God*; **Romans 5:10**, *We were reconciled to him through the death of his Son.*

- The operative word here is “reconciliation.” It means that 2 people who have been at odds with one another are now brought back together. The Bible never talks about God being reconciled to us, because He never did anything wrong. We are the ones who need to be changed and brought back to God (**Colossians 1:21**).

**II. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF GRACE STANDING**

**Romans 5:2**, *Through [Jesus] we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

**III. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF HOPE**

**Romans 5:2**, *We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*” **Verse 5**, *Hope does not disappoint.*

- This refers to God’s glory, but *in that manifestation the glory of God will be reflected in them, and it is this reflection that will constitute their glory.*—John Murray, 164.
- With biblical hope, there is no “maybe,” there is no uncertainty. It doesn’t mean, “I hope so!” It means, “I know so.” Biblical hope is about things that haven’t happened yet, but will certainly happen, because God has promised that they will. Biblical hope is future and sure.

**IV. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF GOOD GRIEF**

**Romans 5:3**, *We also rejoice in our sufferings.*

- A Christian without suffering is a Christian without empathy, without wisdom, without patience, without tried and true character, without a strong testimony.
- **C. S. Lewis**: *M]ortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering, “No future bliss can make up for it,” not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backward and turn even that agony into a glory.*<sup>2</sup>

**V. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF PERSEVERANCE**

**Romans 5:9**, *How much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* **Verse 10**, *How much more shall we be saved through his life?*

- **Charles Hodge**—*If while we were enemies, we were restored to the favor of God by the death of his Son, the fact that he lives will certainly secure our final salvation.*
- **Lloyd Jones** points out that the Devil is our chief prosecutor.
- The Devil is “*the accuser of the brothers.*” (**Revelation 12:10**).

**VI. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF LOVE-SATURATION**

**Romans 5:5**, *God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

**VII. WE'VE GOT THE GIFT OF GOD HIMSELF**

**Romans 5:11** *we also rejoice in God*

- **J. I. Packer**: *Knowing God is a relationship calculated to thrill a man’s heart.*<sup>3</sup>
- **Richard Baxter**—*May the living God, who is the portion and rest of the saints, make these our carnal minds so spiritual, and our earthly hearts so heavenly, that loving him, and delighting in him, may be the work of our lives.*<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Desideratum: Something considered necessary or highly desirable.*

<sup>2</sup> Teacher George MacDonald to the narrator in C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce: A Dream* (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1946), 1973.

<sup>3</sup> J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973), 32.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Baxter, *The Saints’ Everlasting Rest* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978), 17.

