**Patience, Comfort, and Hope**

*Romans 15:4*

**Introduction**

1. To make his point, Paul quoted from the Old Testament scriptures **(v. 3 – cf. Psalm 69:9)**
2. **He used the Old Testament to teach the Romans how to treat each other, and even applied the scripture to Christ.**
3. **(v. 4)** – While the Old Testament has been made obsolete (**cf. Hebrews 8:13**) as to its being in effect, it is still useful. It still has a place in the life of the Christian.
4. **Let us consider the efficacy of the Old Testament in our lives.**
5. Written for Our Learning
6. The Old Testament Still Teaches Us
   1. **Romans 15 is not the only place Paul quoted from the Old Testament, and Paul is not the only NT writer who used the OT:**
      1. **1 Corinthians 15:54-55** – Victory over death in resurrection.
      2. **Hebrews 3:14-15** – Do not fall away as did the Israelites.
      3. **1 Peter 1:23-25** – To show the power and lasting nature of God’s word – those born of it will also endure forever.
   2. **2 Timothy 3:14-15** – Timothy was raised being taught the OT scriptures.
      1. Pertained to salvation.
      2. ***“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith” (Galatians 3:24)***.
      3. We can read about Christ in the OT…
7. The Old Testament Is From God
   1. **The reason the OT can teach us is because it comes from God.**
      1. **2 Timothy 3:15-17** – Such would include Paul’s writing, i.e. NT, but specifically has reference to the OT.
      2. **2 Peter 1:19-21** – It was authored by God, thus true, and profitable.
   2. **Consider that God did not simply record the good, but the bad too:**
      1. **1 Corinthians 10:11** – Example of the rebellious Israelites recorded for our admonition.
      2. **David** was a man after God’s own heart, yet God still had his failure in sin recorded for us – Bathsheba, and Uriah. **(cf. 2 Samuel 11-12)**
   3. **God holds nothing back that we need. We can learn by studying the OT. Therein are profitable messages 🡪**
8. The Patience of the Scriptures
9. Patience is Necessary
   1. **Romans 15:1-6** – Patience with those who are weak in regard to conscience.
      1. **Romans 14:1-4** – Eating of meats – liberty, but not all have knowledge (**cf. 1 Corinthians 8:7).**
      2. **Forgo liberty for the sake of brother – REQUIRES PATIENCE/ENDURANCE.**
   2. **James 1:2-4** – Patience in trials.
      1. Must be able to endure trials – trials build up that endurance.
      2. **James 5:7-8** – Oppressed by the rich, but must have patience to reach the reward – like the farmer.
   3. **We need patience, and can receive such by looking to the OT 🡪**
10. Patience Gleaned from the Scriptures
    1. **Job** – **James 5:11** – Job lost his family, property, health, and was tempted by his wife to curse God.
       1. **Sabeans raid** – *killed servants by sword, took animals;* **Fire of God** – *consumed servants and sheep;* **Chaldeans raid** – *took camels killed servants with sword;* **Great wind** – *caused house to fall on children and died****;* Health** – *struck with painful boils.*
       2. ***“In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong” (Job 1:22)***.
       3. **End intended** – Lord is very compassionate and merciful – **Job 42:12a**
    2. **Joseph:**
       1. **Brothers (Patriarchs**) – Sold into Egypt.
       2. **Potiphar’s wife** – accusation, and Potiphar puts in prison.
       3. **Cupbearer** – Does not remember Joseph – **had to wait 2 full years** (**cf. Genesis 41:1).**
       4. **Genesis 50:19-21** – After Jacob died, brothers were afraid of what Joseph would do.
          1. **He never stopped trusting in God, and remaining patient!**
    3. ***“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, the shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).***
11. The Comfort of the Scriptures
12. Comfort is Necessary
    1. **2 Corinthians 1:3-7** – Comfort/consolation to endure hardships/suffering for Christ.
       1. **(vv. 3-4a)** – Comfort from God in suffering.
       2. **(vv. 4b-7)** – Comfort others with the same comfort.
       3. God says we must suffer for Him, but He promises comfort during suffering.
       4. **Comfort is infectious, and spreads from Christian to Christian through Christ.**
    2. **Philippians 4:10-13** – Comfort/strength provided by Christ during time of want.
       1. Paul appreciated the support from Philippi.
       2. **However, he was comfortable/content even in want because of Christ.**
    3. **Philippians 4:4** – Rejoice in the Lord – with Him there is always comfort.
13. Comfort Gleaned from the Scriptures
    1. **David – Psalm 3** – Fleeing from Absalom – comforted by God’s provision.
       1. God encompassed David in protection.
       2. **David knew that trusting in God would work out for his good.**
    2. **Leah** – Jacob loved Leah more than Rachel – God saw Leah’s plight, and provided for her.
       1. **Genesis 29:18-31** – Laban tricked Jacob, but Jacob then loved Rachel more than Leah.
       2. **God gave Leah children before Rachel, who was barren – 4 at the time.**
    3. **The Lord cares for us – *“The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:30-31).***
14. The Hope of the Scriptures
15. Hope Provided and Active
    1. **1 Peter 1:3-5** – We have been born again to a living hope.
    2. This hope is of the inheritance of the saints – for the resurrection to life – heaven.
    3. **Living** – Active – activates us toward great faith before God to reach the end of our faith – salvation.
    4. **Hebrews 6:19-20** – It anchors our soul in the storms of life.
16. Hope Working in the Scriptures
    1. **Abraham** – Obeyed God when called to go out – **Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16**.
       1. Left all he knew – land, family, religion.
       2. **Hoped for something better – not physical land, but heaven.**
    2. **Moses** – Did not stay with Egyptian riches and gods, but suffered for Christ – **Hebrews 11:24-26**.
       1. He looked toward the reward.
       2. **It did not matter how great the riches were that he was leaving, nor the suffering he would have to endure.**
    3. **Daniel** – Promised to be raised in the end – **Daniel 12:13** – Daniel had the hope of the resurrection in the end.
    4. ***“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).***

**Conclusion**

1. The OT was nailed to the cross, and salvation is in Christ. However, the OT is still very useful.
2. These things were recorded by God for a reason – learning, patience, comfort, hope.
3. While our focus may be on the NT, we should not neglect the OT – Study, and grow thereby!