**The Patience and Comfort of the Scriptures**

*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 10:6-12** – warning using the example of the Israelites.
      2. **Hebrews 3:14-15** – Do not fall away as did the Israelites.
      3. **Hebrews 8:5** – the need to establish and hold to a Divine pattern like the Israelites with the tabernacle.
   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). (1 Corinthians 8:1 – love edifies)**
      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. **Hebrews 10:35-39** – need of endurance to receive the promise (especially through trials; OT quoted)
   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**
          1. **James 1:12** – receive the crown of life.
    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. **Such words after such a long, trying and difficult time do not just come naturally, but as a result of continued and cultivated patience in trusting God.**
          2. **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, they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).***
       1. Includes constancy in faith, obedience, and trust that God’s ways are best, especially in regard to where they lead.
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.
          1. ***(v. 6) – “EFFECTIVE FOR ENDURING…SUFFERINGS”***
       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. **2 Corinthians 4:7-18** – comforted even in despairing circumstances knowing the body of the resurrection that will be given.
       1. **(vv. 7-12)** – plight the apostles were subjected to in order to bring spiritual life to others.
       2. **(vv. 13-15)** – optimism of the apostles.
       3. **(vv. 16-18)** – looking to the spiritual, and knowing the transformation brings 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.**
       3. **Psalm 11** – perhaps when Absalom rebelled, or when David was pursued by Saul – was comforted that God was in control.
    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. (ESPECIALLY. **VV. 31-35**)
       2. **God gave Leah children before Rachel, who was barren – 4 at the time.**
    3. The Lord cares for us – **Matthew 10:27-31** – limited commission – knowing God is all powerful and values our soul more than anything else should comfort us and cause us to confidently proclaim and do His will.
       1. **Matthew 6:33** – we can take comfort knowing that it doing His will He will provide us with what we need.
14. The Hope Produced by the Scriptures
15. Hope Provided and Active
    1. **1 Peter 1:3-5** – We have been born again to a living hope.
       1. This hope is of the inheritance of the saints – for the resurrection to life – heaven.
       2. **Living** – Active – activates us toward great faith before God to reach the end of our faith – salvation.
       3. **Produced** – through obedience to the word – begotten again – **1 Peter 1:22-23** – born of word.
    2. It is a hope that is further solidified by the things recorded for us in scripture (both OT and NT) – **Romans 5:5** – love of God revealed through HS inspired scriptures.
    3. **Hebrews 6:13-20** – It is confirmed through examples of others (OT) and anchors our soul in the storms of life.
16. Hope Working in the Scriptures
    1. Such people of faith in the OT that are recorded as having patience and comfort were afforded hope from God. This motivated their actions.
    2. **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.**
    3. **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.**
    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).***
       1. Scriptures concerning the promise of salvation even to the Gentiles recorded for the further production of hope – **Romans 15:7-13**

**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!