First Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MESSAGE SHEET
Series: Summer 2026
July 2026

Christian Suffering Produces

Romans 5:3–5 · Sunday, July 19, 2026 · Rev. William Mitchell

THE PASSAGE

Romans 5:3–5. “And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

THREE TAKEAWAYS

1. Life is not one long fairy tale. No, it’s not all good — there is pain, suffering and injustice. In those dark times the Christian has an extra source of hope.
2. Suffering alone does not build character; it can break people and embitter the spirit. Combine faith with suffering and it produces endurance, then character — and character is more than just being strong.
3. Somehow our hearts can be softened by the experience of suffering. We become more understanding, more loving, more Christ-like. Whatever has happened to us, God can use.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR THE TABLE

1. What is the hard thing you didn’t expect — the suffering you have asked God “why” about?
2. Where is suffering making you stronger — and where is it making you bitter? What would meeting it with faith look like?
3. Who helps alcoholics? Other alcoholics. What have you been through that could be your avenue to touch someone else’s life?