

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

October 12, 2025

*"For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines,
and He scourges every son whom He receives."* – Hebrews 12:6



trinityreformedct.org

“✠” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – 1Peter 4:12-19

Leader: *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing,*

People: **As though some strange thing were happening to you;**

Leader: *But to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory*

People: **You may rejoice with exultation.**

Leader: *If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed,*

People: **Because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.**

Leader: *Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed,*

People: **But is to glorify God in this name.**

Leader: *For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first,*

People: **What will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?**

Leader: *And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved,*

People: **What will become of the godless man and the sinner?**

Leader: *Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls*

People: **to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Matthew 28:20B

***Hymn #5** – “God, My King, Thy Might Confessing”

Scripture Reading – Revelation 3:14-22

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #50B** – “O You, My People, Hear”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Confession, 5.5-7.

<i>Leader:</i>	<i>The most wise, righteous, and gracious God does oftentimes leave, for a season,</i>	2Chr 32:25-26,31 2Sam 24:1
People:	His own children to manifold temptations,	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts,</i>	
People:	That they may be humbled;	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support</i>	2Cor 12:7-9 Ps 73; 77:1,10,12
People:	Upon Himself,	Mark 14:66-72
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin,</i>	John 21:15-17
People:	And for sundry other just and holy ends.	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as a righteous Judge, for former sins,</i>	Rom 1:24,26,28 Rom 11:7-8
People:	Does blind and harden,	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>From them He not only withholdeth His grace whereby they might have been enlightened in their understandings,</i>	Deut 29:4
People:	And wrought upon in their hearts;	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>But sometimes also withdraweth the gifts which they had, and exposes them to such objects</i>	Matt 13:12 Matt 25:29
People:	As their corruption make occasion of sin;	Deut 2:30; 2Kgs 8:12-13
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And, withal, gives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world,</i>	Ps 81:11-12 2Thes 2:10-12
People:	And the power of Satan,	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Whereby it comes to pass that they harden themselves, even under those means</i>	Ex 7:3; 8:15,32 2Cor 2:15-16; Is 6:9-10; 8:14
People:	Which God uses for the softening of others.	1Pet 2:7-8; Acts 28:26-27
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>As the providence of God does, in general, reach to all creatures; so, after a most special manner, it takes care of His Church</i>	1Tim 4:10 Amos 9:8-9 Rom 8:28
People:	And disposes all things to the good thereof.	Is 43:3-5,14

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 4:12-18

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Judgment First Begins With the Household of God”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

***Hymn #528** – “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- **Operation Christmas Child** (OCC) gifts are due by Sunday, **Nov 16th**. Please return them to Mason, with a \$10 donation per shoebox, if able. OCC is a mission carried out by the Christian non-profit Samaritan's Purse. Through shoebox gifts, they give Christmas present and include a Gospel message to children in impoverished regions of the world. These shoeboxes can be packed with toys, school supplies, clothes, a personal letter, and more. If you are interested or have any question, please see Mason Goodell (goodellmas@gmail.com or 860-806-6437).
- The **Deacon Fund** (i.e. support for church members in need) is running low, any new donations will be greatly appreciated.
- Dave & Janelle Franceschetti have set up a gofundme page to help with the medical costs for **baby Caleb's** upcoming transplant surgery. You can go to: <https://gofund.me/95103c5b9>
Or search for: “Help Caleb and Family During Transplant”.

Upcoming Events

- There will be a joint **Elder & Deacon meeting** to discuss the budget after church today.
- On Saturday, **October 18th**, starting at 11:30 AM, there will be an **Oktoberfest** at the Aldrich's. With choice of select root-beers (we are Calvinists after all) and a bouncy house!
There is a sign-up sheet for food if you could help by bringing a particular dish.
- The **Bolton Conference** is on **October 24th - 25th** (Fri-Sat) at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA 01588. newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2025-conference
- **New Ladies Fellowship**: The Ladies of the Church are invited to the Aldrich home on Saturday, **November 1st**, from **12:00 – 2 PM** for a TULIP Party. It will be a casual time of fellowship with a short study. A lunch of soup and sandwiches will be provided.
- **Caleb Goodell's** last, before he goes into the Army, is **November 2nd**.
- The **3rd Annual Calvinist-Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 5th**, at 6:30 PM, at the Grange.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on **December 14th**.
- **Regular Studies & Gatherings**:
 - Sunday School** for all ages (9:00 AM).
 - Tuesday Study** (10:30 AM – noon) – Augustine's Sermons.
 - Wednesday Study** (6:30 – 8:00 PM) – Book of Hebrews.
 - Gen-Alpha Club** will return on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Friday YADG (6:30 PM) still meets on 1st & 3rd Friday.

Saturday Morning Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC's Webpage: TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC's Facebook Page: facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC's Youtube Channel: youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
Pastor Doug's youtube.com/simplyreformed
Youtube Channels: youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: **trcnwprayer@gmail.com**. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

1Samuel 4:12-18

“Judgment Begins at God’s House”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

October 12, 2025

Introduction

- 1) Today we are continuing to go through 1Samuel 1-8.
- 2) Judgment has come upon the people of God, even related to God’s House, which is quite shocking.

Background to 1Samuel 4:1ff

- 1) We are in the time of Judges – A time of moral decline in Israel. Judg 2:10-19; 17:6; 21:25
- 2) God’s House, the Tabernacle, is in northern Israel, 1Sam 1:3,9,24; 3:21
in the town of Shiloh. Josh 18:1; Ps 78:60
 - a) The most important part of God’s House is the Ark of the Covenant.
 - b) The Ark was God’s throne on earth, the covenant chest holding His law, and the symbol of His presence and power with His people. Ex 25:10-22; Num 10:33-36
Deut 10:1-5; Josh 3:3-11
Ps 80:1

- 3) Eli is the high priest and judge, and his two evil sons, Hophni & Phinehas, are also priests. 1Sam 1:3; 2:12-17,22-25; 4:4
- 4) Israel goes out and fights its great enemy the Philistines at Ebenezer. 1Sam 4:2ff
 - a) Israel is routed.
 - b) The elders call for the Ark of the Covenant to be brought forward, believing God will fight for Israel.
 - c) The Ark, with Eli's two sons (the priests, Hophni & Phinehas) is brought forward.
 - d) Though at first the Philistines are afraid, they rally and inflict a massive defeat on Israel.
 - i) 30,000 Israelite soldiers are killed.
 - ii) Eli's sons, the priests Hophni and Phinehas, are killed.
 - iii) Even more shockingly: "*The ark of God was taken*" – 1Sam 4:11b

Today's Sermon Text – 1Samuel 4:12-18

- 1) A "man of Benjamin" returns to Shiloh to tell of the disaster.
 - a) The reference to "Benjamin" may foreshadow the coming kingship of Saul who was from the tribe of Benjamin. 1Sam 9:1-2
 - b) That the end of priestly rule (Eli was also a judge) is coming to an end.
 - c) As per the prophecies of God. 1Sam 2:27-36; 3:11-14
- 2) Eli is seated by the road, eagerly wanting to hear about the battle. 1Sam 4:13
 - a) His heart is focused on the Ark, which shows Eli's very mixed nature.
 - i) Took his job very seriously.
 - ii) However, refused to fully rebuke his evil sons, and profited off of them. 1Sam 2:12-17,22-25,29; 3:13
 - b) The Benjaminite tells the city, and the people cry out. 1Sam 4:13
 - c) The man of Benjamin comes and tells the old, blind, Eli. 1Sam 4:14-15
- 3) The man says: "*Israel has fled before the Philistines and there has also been a great slaughter among the people, and your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been taken.*" – 1Samuel 4:17b
 - a) What shocks Eli is the capture of the Ark, not the death of his sons. 1Sam 4:18
(Which again shows there are elements of godliness to him.)
 - b) Eli falls backward and breaks his neck and dies.
 - c) The writer gives commentary: Eli was "*old and heavy.*" – 1Samuel 4:18b
 - i) Not just a comment on his size.
 - ii) But also, a reference to his corruption.
 - iii) We read in 1Samuel 2:29-30 that the corruption of his sons had made Eli's household fat/rich, and thus Eli is literally fat.
- 4) The last commentary is a historical statement, "*Thus he judged Israel forty years.*" – 1Sam 4:18b
 - a) This signals an end of this era:
 - i) The time of the Judges is coming to an end.

- ii) The last judge, Samuel will not only be a priest, but also a prophet, and he will prophesy the coming king. 1Sam 7:15-17
1Sam 8:1
- b) “40” represents a time of completeness, whether for good or ill.¹
- 5) It is tempting to think of Eli as a “tragic” figure.
 - a) I think that would be wrong, since it is God’s judgment against him.
(Eli is not a noble figure who comes to ruin because of fate.)
 - b) Probably it would be better to call him a “sad” figure?
(To have human compassion but still have moral objection.)
 - c) To have compassion for such figures as Eli, Saul, or Judas, can be problematic.
 - i) We should not rejoice over the fall of the wicked. Prov 24:17-18; Ezek 18:23; 33:11
Obad 12-13; Matt 5:44
 - ii) We are commanded to love our enemies. Matt 5:44; Rom 12:14,20; 1Pet 3:9
 - iii) Yet to empathize and focus on the individual over having fear for God and concern for His ways is such a modern sin. Deut 13:6-11; 1Sam 2:29-30
Prov 1:7; Matt 10:37-39
Rom 1:25; Gal 1:10
 - d) We should learn from Eli in this matter and first and foremost focus on God.
 - i) Remember Commandments 1-4 come before Commandments 5-10. Ex 20; Deut 5
 - ii) And in Eli’s example in particular, focus on God’s house.

Household of God

- 1) Throughout the Bible, in OT & NT, we read that God has a House. Num 12:7; 1Kgs 6:1-38; Ps 23:6
Matt 21:13; 1Tim 3:15; Heb 3:1-6
- 2) Of course, on the cosmic level God doesn’t need any earthly house. 1Kgs 8:27; Ps 115:3; Is 66:1-2
Acts 7:47-50; 17:24; Heb 8:5
Acts 17:24-25 – “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;”
- 3) But because God is gracious to His people, He condescends, He accommodates Himself, to them by dwelling with them. Ex 25:8; Lev 26:11-12; 1Kgs 6:13
John 1:14; 14:23; Rev 21:3
 - a) Leviticus 26:11-12 – *“Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.”*
 - b) In the OT it is the portable house called the Tabernacle and then the Temple in Jerusalem. Ex 25:8-9; 29:45-46
2Sam 7:5-7; 1Kgs 6:1; 8:10-11
 - c) Those OT buildings, however, were but shadows and figures of the reality of His better house in the New. John 2:19-21; Col 2:17
Heb 8:5; 9:8-11,23-24; 10:1

¹ The Flood was 40 days. (Gen 7:4,12) Moses spent forty days on Sinai. (Ex 24:18) The spies search the land of Canaan for 40 days. (Num 13:25) Israel wandered forty years in the wilderness for 40 years. (Num 14:33-35) Some judges (Othniel, Deborah/Barak, Gideon) governed for forty years. (Judg 3:11; 5:31; 8:28) The Philistines oppressed Israel for 40 years. (Judg 13:1) Saul, David and Solomon reigned for 40 years. (Acts 13:21; Sam 5:4; 1Kgs 11:42) Elijah spent forty days on Mount Horeb. (1Kgs 19:8) Jonah prophesied 40 days against Nineveh. (Jonah 3:4) The Lord Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness. (Matt 4:2) The Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples 40 days before His ascension. (Acts 1:3)

4) The House of God in the NT is the church.²

- a) Jesus Christ is the true Temple. Matt 12:4-6; John 2:19-21; Col 2:9; Heb 9:11; Rev 21:22-23
- b) And His spiritual body on earth is the church. Rom 12:4-5; 1Cor 12:12-27; Col 1:18
Eph 1:22-23; 4:12; 5:23
- c) Both collectively and as individual Christians that make up the spiritual body of Christ. Rom 12:4-5; Eph 4:4,12,16
1Cor 6:15,19; 12:12-27

5) To give a few examples:

- a) John 1:14 – *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt (literally “tabernacled”) among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
- b) 1Timothy 3:15b – *“I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”*
- c) 1Peter 2:5 – *“you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

- 6) One of the most interesting, at first troubling, yet in the end comforting biblical teaching is that God’s judgment first starts with His Household.³ Ezek 9:6; Amos 3:2
Matt 3:10-12; 1Cor 11:31-32
Heb 12:6; 1Pet 4:17

7) Let’s look at one example.

1Peter 4:15-19

- 1) Probably the most famous is 1Peter 4:17 – ***“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”***
- 2) 1Peter reminds Christians that they are aliens, strangers and pilgrims in this fallen world with a call to have steadfast faith and holiness in the face of persecution, trials, and suffering, because the saints are God’s chosen people and therefore we have great hope.
 - a) 1Peter 4 is about keeping one’s love fervent in the face of suffering.
 - b) 1Peter 4:1-2 teaches that since Christ suffered we should learn to suffer like Him, not living for the lusts of the flesh but for the will of God.
 - c) This is beautifully summoned up in 1Peter 4:12-14 – *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”*

² Gen 28:17,22; Ex 25:8; Num 12:7; 1Kgs 6:1-38; 8:10-13; 2Chr 7:1-3,16; Ps 23:6; 26:8; 27:4; 84:1-4,10; 92:13; Is 56:7; Jer 7:1-14; Ezek 10:18-19; 44:9; Matt 12:4-6; 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 2:49; John 2:16-21; Acts 7:47-49; 17:24; Rom 12:4-5; 1Cor 3:9,16-17; 6:19-20; 12:12-27; 2Cor 6:16; Eph 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 4:12; 5:23; Col 1:18; 2:9; 1Tim 3:15; Heb 3:1-6; 9:11; 10:21; 1Pet 2:5; 4:17; Rev 3:12; 21:22-23.

³ Ex 32:25-35; Lev 10:1-3; Deut 13:5-11; 17:12; Josh 7:1-26; 1Sam 3:11-14; 2Sam 6:6-8; 1Kgs 13:1-24; 2Chr 7:14; Ps 50:16-21; Is 1:11-20; 10:12; Jer 25:29; Ezek 9:4-6; Amos 3:2; Zech 13:7-9; Mal 3:1-5; Matt 3:10-12; 7:21-23; 13:41-43,49-50; Luke 12:47-48; John 15:2,6; Acts 5:1-11; Rom 2:6-10; 1Cor 5:12-13; 11:27-32; 2Cor 6:14-18; 13:5; Gal 6:7-8; Eph 5:5-7; Col 3:5-6; 1Thes 5:4-6; 2Thes 1:4-10; 1Tim 5:24; 2Tim 2:19-21; Heb 10:30-31; 12:5-11,25; James 3:1; 1Pet 4:17-18; Jude 4-5; Rev 2-3; 22:12.

d) Peter then comments that suffering for doing evil is not what he is talking about.

1Pet 4:15

e) However, *“if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.”* – 1Peter 4:16.

3) Then comes 1Peter 4:17, and we have many questions to answer.

a) Again: *“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God . . .”*

b) When is the *“time”* of the *“for it is time for judgment to begin”*?

i) It starts with Christ’s 1st Advent (the first Christmas, Easter, Pentecost) and ends with Christ’s 2nd Advent at the end of the age.

ii) So, it includes right now (2025 AD) and 125 AD, 1025 AD, and if our Lord doesn’t return in the next 1000 years then 3025 AD, etc.

c) But why?

i) 1Peter 4:17b-18 – *“what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?”*

ii) It shows the Gospel is everything.

iii) It is to show God’s just judgment against those who reject Christ.

iv) It is to show that salvation is only possible solely through Christ and God’s grace.

- Remember “salvation” is the whole process of being put in Christ. (Regeneration + Justification + Sanctification, etc.)

- And sanctification is a difficult walk.

d) It is also for the strengthening of our faith, which will create in us hope and produce many good works of love.

e) As we read in 1Peter 4:19 – *“Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”*

Judgment as a Blessing

1) In a worldly sense judgment all looks the same.

a) The evil Canaanite general Sisera gets a tent peg nailed through his temple.

Judg 4:21

b) The wicked queen Jezebel is thrown out of a window, trampled by horses, and eaten by dogs.

2Kgs 9:33-37

c) The sad case of Eli, as we have been reading about in 1Samuel, whose neck get snapped.

1Sam 4:18

d) The death of David’s close friend Jonathan who was killed in battle with the evil Philistines.

1Sam 31:1-2

1Chr 10:1-2

e) Good king Josiah who is shockingly killed in battle against the pagan Egyptians.

2Kgs 23:29-30

2Chr 35:20-24

f) Stephen, the first Christian martyr is stoned to death.

Act 7:54-60

g) And the death of our Lord through the tortuous Roman form of execution called crucifixion.

Matt 27:50

John 19:30

2) They are all the same right?

a) All terrible deaths, therefore they all have the same meaning?

b) Of course not!

c) They all happen because we live in a fallen world and death is the punishment for sin.

Gen 2:17; 3:19; Ezek 18:4

Rom 5:12; 6:23; James 1:15

d) And that is why He who is without sin and to die for the sins of the world.

John 1:29; 2Cor 5:21; 1John 2:1-2

Heb 4:15; 7:26-27; 1Pet 2:22-24

e) The only way God can save and still be just and good is through Christ and His Cross.

Rom 3:25-26; 5:8-9; Gal 3:13

Eph 1:7; 2Cor 5:21; 1Pet 3:18

3) The sufferings the wicked endure show their evil heart (because they lack faith in Christ) and thus the God's just judgment of God.

Deut 32:35; Ps 7:11-13

John 3:18-20; Rom 2:5-6

2Thes 1:6-9; Rev 20:12-15

4) The sufferings the righteous endure (though it might look the same to the world) is for our growth and to confirm the Spirit is in us because we respond, by the grace of God, with faith, hope and love.

Job 1:8-22; Ps 34:19; 66:10-12

Rom 5:3-5; 8:17-18,28-29

2Cor 4:16-17; Heb 12:6-11

1Pet 1:6-7; 2:19-21; 3:14; 4:12-14,19

a) By the way, there is time for the godly to grieve, however, we do not grieve as without hope, and we move beyond our grief to greater faith, hope and love in Christ.

Ps 34:18; John 16:20,22

Rom 8:18; 2Cor 4:17-18

1Thes 4:13-14; Rev 21:4

b) 1Thessalonians 4:13 – *“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.”*

God's Providence in Suffering

1) You see this in the Savoy Declaration / Westminster Confession, chapter 5 – Of Providence, 5.5-6.

2) In chapter 5.6 it speaks about judgment on the wicked: *“As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as a righteous Judge, for former sins, does blind and harden, (Rom 1:24,26,28, 11:7-8) from them He not only withholdeth His grace whereby they might have been enlightened in their understandings, and wrought upon in their hearts; (Deut 29:4) but sometimes also withdraweth the gifts which they had, (Matt13:12; 25:29) and exposeth them to such objects as their corruption make occasion of sin; (Deut 2:30; 2Kgs 8:12-13) and, withal, gives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan, (Ps 81:11-12, 2Thes 2:10-12) whereby it comes to pass that they harden themselves, even under those means which God useth for the softening of others. (Ex 7:3; 8:15,32; 2Cor 2:15-16; Is 8:14; 1Pet 2:7-8; Is 6:9-10; Acts 28:26-27)”*

3) But for the Christian, we read in chapter 5.5: *“The most wise, righteous, and gracious God does oftentimes leave, for a season, His own children to manifold temptations, and the corruption of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, that they may be humbled; (2Chr 32:25-26,31; 2Sam 24:1) and, to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon Himself, and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for sundry other just and holy ends. (2Cor 12:7-9; Ps. 73; 77:1,10, 12; Mark 14:66-72; John 21:15-17)”*

4) Romans 5:1-5 – *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, bwe have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*