

Our Hope: The Glory of God!

Scripture: *Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)*

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Introduction

Two Sunday ago, we started this series Our Hope. The goal behind these messages is that hope is an essential part of saving faith and that it is the spring of joy and love and courage and endurance in the Christian life. My prayer very simply is to encourage and to motivate you to put your hope in the grace of God and not in yourself or in anything this world can offer.

We spoke on the ways God shows us the greatness of His glory. I just picked Eleven Ways God Shows Us the Greatness of His Glory.

Today we are going continue the points in the Our Hope: The glory of God.

A Sure Hope

The glory of God is a sure hope in Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:2 says, “We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” The glory of God is not yet manifest in full, even though the heavens declare the glory of God and Jesus himself is the image and reflection of that glory. There is so much more coming that we now live in hope. We wait. We wait for Christ. We wait for health. We wait for righteousness. And we wait for the glory of God. But there are three phrases in Romans 5:1–2 that are intended to give Christians strong confidence and full assurance that we will indeed share in this glory. We don’t wait and wonder if it will turn out well. We can wait and know that the glory of God is our eternal portion. The first phrase is, JUSTIFIED BY FAITH. The second phrase is, PEACE WITH GOD. And the third phrase is THE GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND.

Suppose this text is fulfilled in you and you go whistling to work tomorrow because the hope of the glory of God has dawned in your heart. And suppose somebody says, “What are you so happy about?” and you say, “Because I know I am going to share in the glory of God,” and they say, “How do you know that?” What should you answer?

Well, Paul says you should answer in these three phrases. You say, “I know I am going to share in the glory of God because I am justified by faith, and because I live at peace with God, and because I stand in the center of God’s grace.”

And if they say, “And just how did you get access into the center of God’s grace?” you will answer with ***verse 2, “Through Jesus Christ who loved me and gave himself for me. Because of Jesus, God acquitted me of all my sins and reckoned me righteous in his sight. Because of Jesus, God is now reconciled to me; we are no longer enemies but friends. And because of Jesus, I have access into his grace where I am as safe and secure as a babe in its mother’s arms.”***

And then you will say, as I say to every one of you right now, “My friend, don’t you want to share in the glory of God?” You can if you turn from sin and start trusting Christ. He gives justification. He gives peace with God. He gives grace upon grace. And therefore, our hope in the glory of God is not built on sand. It is as sure as the

character of Jesus Christ. Those are our first two points: **1) the glory of God is very great, and 2) the glory of God is a sure hope in Jesus Christ.**

Hearts Full of Joy and Exultation

That brings us to the third and last point — which is not so much a point in my message as it is an opportunity for you to respond. It's simply this: the hope of the glory of God fills the heart with joy and exultation. "We rejoice, we exult in the hope of the glory of God."

The reason we can always rejoice in God is not because the Christian life is an easy life. It isn't. The reason is that the glory of God is great beyond all imagining, and in Jesus Christ it is rock sure.

And so REJOICE!

Rejoice in glorious hope!

Our Lord the judge shall come

And take His servants up

to their eternal home.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!