

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.

³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Let's focus our attention on the last several words of verse 2, "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." In the time we have I would like to try to unfold the wonderful truths in these words.

A Very Great Glory. The glory of God is very great. I get this point simply from two things in the text: one is that the mere hope for it, not to mention the having it, fills the believer with exultation. The other is that it is GOD'S glory, and God is very great!

"Who is God?" And the answer is: "God is a Spirit. He is infinite, eternal and unchanging, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." In other words God is very great. And therefore his glory is very great. And if we are not filled this morning with joy at the prospect of seeing and sharing that glory, then we need to pray right now that God would open the eyes of our heart and awaken our affection and give us a relish for his glory.

Eleven Ways God Shows Us the Greatness of His Glory. God has been very good to us in the New Testament by giving us many different ways of seeing the greatness of his glory. I am going to mention eleven of these in the hope that one or several will sink into your heart and give you a longing for God's glory. I am not going to define it first, but just let the texts point you to the reality.

- 1: By Saying It Is Eternal.**
- 2: By Contrasting It with the Frail Glory of the World.**
- 3: By Speaking of Its Might and Power.**
- 4: By Raising Christ from the Dead by It.**
- 5: By Repeatedly Reminding Us of the Riches of It.**
- 6: By Contrasting Its Joy to This Life's Suffering.**
- 7: By Calling It a "Weight of Glory"**
- 8: By Linking Eternal Punishment with Exclusion from It.**
- 9: By Showing Us That It Will Replace the Sun.**
- 10: By Revealing It in Settings of Heavenly Worship.**
- 11: By Showing Us Jesus, the Perfect Reflection of It.**