

Reasons to Rejoice

Romans 5:3-11

6/ 05/ 05

Intro

First, Paul has demonstrated the need every man has for God. He has confronted both man's sinfulness and self righteousness and proved that no man will have an excuse for not accepting God's offer of salvation and of peace.

Next, Paul showed us that man does not earn his way to heaven, but must come to God by faith and faith alone. If a man will be saved, he cannot save himself. He must believe that God is just and the One who justifies the ungodly.

Now, in chapter 5, Paul writes about the results of our salvation. He says in verse 1, "Therefore, having been justified by faith we have ..." Paul then explains what we receive.

Paul's intention is that we would learn to love the Lord and truly appreciate what we have in Jesus. That should cause us to change the way we live.

He presents to us reasons to rejoice in our salvation.

These are the reasons Paul gives us to rejoice in our salvation.

I. Hope Does Not Disappoint

A. Tribulation brings perseverance

- Our salvation should affect every area of our lives.
- Because of our faith in Jesus Christ, we now have something to rejoice about in our tribulation.

- There is much misunderstanding about what this means. Some have wrongly thought:
 - that we're supposed to be happy about bad things happening,
 - that we should learn to "grin and bear it," just to show how much we can take.
- There is something much deeper that Paul is referring to:

Illus – a man who had much trouble and had to have his leg amputated, but it did not stop the disease and he died, but a few days before his death he said, "I never would have chosen any of the trials I have gone through, but I wouldn't have missed any of them for the world."

- The reason we rejoice is because we know that suffering does something, it brings about change, it produces something of eternal value...

I Peter 4:12-13, "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."

- Paul says to rejoice because suffering produces perseverance – this is the opposite of panic.

James 1:2-4, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance

have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Illus – Misha and how he plans on raising his children...

B. Perseverance brings proven character

- Perseverance brings about a change in who we are. It changes our character.
- From the Greek we understand that it means trustworthiness, in other words – “tried and true.”
- When we learn that God will sustain us through trials, that He works all things for His glory, we are then becoming a man/woman of strength.

Illus – If someone has been through hard times, has survived, and has learned through all of it that God can be trusted – that is what Paul is saying—he becomes a veteran.

- Paul himself is such a veteran.

II Corinthians 1:8-10 – Paul’s troubles in Asia.

C. Proven character brings hope

- Hope has several possible meanings. It can mean wishing for something good to come, or it can mean -- as it does here—confident expectation.
- The confident expectation is that God is changing us into the image of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:24-25, “For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

II. God Demonstrates His Love

A. God pours out His love in our hearts

- The question of “why does God do all this for us” should loom large in our minds as we see all that Jesus has done for us.
- The answer is plainly written by Paul here.
- Because God loves us is the answer. God’s love is seen in two ways as Paul describes it for us.
- First, He pours out His love right into our hearts by giving us the Holy Spirit.

Illus – We need to know that God loves us in order for us to persevere, to gain proven character, and obtain hope. Some people grow through their trials, other people become bitter. *The key is being convinced that God loves you. He convinces us by giving us the Holy Spirit.*

- **Romans 8:28 and following speak to the same point.**

Romans 8:26-31 – If God be for us...

B. He died for us when we were His enemy

- This becomes overwhelming evidence of His love for us – that Christ died for us when we were sinners; we were His enemies.
- He points out in verse 6 that we were helpless and ungodly – and He died for us at just the right time.

I John 4:9-11, “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

Ephesians 2:4-5, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),”

III. And Still Much More

A. We shall be saved

- Here is yet more hope that comes from knowing how much God loves us.
- We must be convinced that God will save us from the coming wrath – notice the future tense.

- This is seen in two ways: 1) the coming judgment when God judges sin.

II Peter 3:7, “But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

- 2) by saving us from the wrath of the Great Tribulation:

I Thessalonians 5:9, “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

B. By His life

- The point Paul is making here is that **His death** worked in our behalf in bringing reconciliation,
- Now **His life** also works in our behalf to complete that which was begun in us. In other words, He is alive and now working in our hearts by His life...

Philippians 1:6, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 7:25, “Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

C. We rejoice in God

- Because we have been reconciled through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we now have the privilege of having a relationship to God.

- We need into to enter into that relationship fully and rejoice in God with all our hearts.

Habakkuk 3:18, “Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.”

Conclusion

We have been given a marvelous gift when we received salvation, but there is still “much more.” May we enter in fully into all that God has for us, not only in being reconciled to God, but rejoicing even in our trials.