

Sermon Series: Book of Romans
Sermon title: "Rejoicing"
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
December 11, 2022
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Opening Illustration

This January we will do our 2nd Annual Nasty Hike. It'll be hard. We will go up the back side of Ma On Shan from Wu Kai Sha straight up and over and then all the way down to Sai Kung.

It's a hard hike. Zeik and I came down that way once but never went up that way. When coming down, I said to Zeik, *"This would be the hardest hike going up and I'd never want to do it."*

But we are going to do it. We will suffer.

But I like hard hikes like that. Here's why.

When we go on hard hikes up steep mountains they always provide a great and rewarding view.

Not only that but it feels so good afterwards to know you did it, even when it hurts.

In that sense, we can rejoice in the pain of a hike because we know that it leads to a wonderful vista and it is producing something in us.

Easy hikes don't lead to good vistas, usually.

Life is a bit like that.

As we walk along the trail of life towards the celestial city what keeps us going through the pain and difficulty is knowing that it'll be worth it in the end and that the suffering is only making us long for the top more.

Let's pray.

Romans 5:1-5

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

2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

We've been looking at **Romans 5** the last few weeks and we've been looking at the benefits of being justified through Christ; being made right with God through the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross for us.

We have seen that one benefit is peace with God.

Verse 1

We are no longer enemies of God or against God but now reconciled to God.

We not only have peace with God forever but we have been given access to God continually because Christ has brought us into the realm of grace.

We abide there now with God.

The dividing wall between us and God is torn down, we have peace and we can enter his presence any time we want.

Verse 2

Now, today in the rest of **Verse 2** and following, we see that we have reason for rejoicing. Joy, if you will.

Peace, Grace and now Rejoicing.

Let's look at the text.

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

2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

What other benefit do we now have through Christ?

We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

I want us to see 2 things today in our text. We can.....

I. Rejoice in your glorification.

II. Rejoice in your sufferings.

I. Rejoice in glorification.

What does he mean here by "rejoice in hope of the glory of God"?

Glory of God here doesn't refer specifically to God's own magnificence and splendor alone but to the glorified state that awaits believers.

The culmination of our salvation. Being glorified.
Being changed. Getting a new body.
Being restored to a similar state that Adam and Eve had before the fall.

In **Romans 1**, we saw that human beings "exchange the glory of the immortal God" for idols.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" it said back in **Romans 3**. All of us no longer live in that glorified state but believers hope and look forward to being like we were supposed to be.

We rejoice in the confident expectation in the fulfillment of God's promises to glorify us.

Romans chapter 8 tells us a lot about this.

Let's hear the Scriptures.

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And

those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

In this passage we have the real definition of what it means to be glorified....."conformed to the image of his Son".

Believer we have reason for rejoicing.

We shall be changed.

We shall be conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

Jesus died and won that for us.

If we have been united with him in death...we shall certainly be united with him in resurrection.

A new body then.

Morally perfect.

Rejoice in your future glorification.

II. Rejoice in your sufferings.

2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3 Not only that**, but we rejoice in our sufferings,knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope

If we can rejoice in our glorification, we can also rejoice in our sanctification....because it is evidence of our future glorification.

“Not only that” he says....‘Wait there’s more’....we can not just rejoice in our future glory but in our present situation.

What does he mean here by “sufferings”?

Thom Schreiner says it well when he says that they are the, *“pressures and troubles that annoy believers in this present evil age.”*

Paul uses this word sufferings in many ways to mean many types of suffering, not just persecution for our faith etc.

So, this message is for you and me who feel the pressures and troubles of life. We can rejoice in our present sufferings. Why? Or How?

Because they’re doing something.

What are they doing?

suffering produces endurance,
4 and endurance produces character,
and character produces hope

So let me point out 2 things that suffering does.

1. Our present sufferings are sanctifying us.

Our sufferings are making us stronger.

Like muscle soreness is a symptom of muscle growth.

suffering produces endurance,

That is our trials teach us to press on.

4 and endurance produces character,

And when we press on it proves that we are truly born again. 'Character' here means to be proven. Proven that we are really children of God.

Your struggles are sanctifying you.

2. Our present sufferings are making us hope more.

and character produces hope.

Really what we can say here is that Suffering--> HOPE.

We endure and keep trusting him and every time we struggle...we hope in God and wait for the day when we will struggle no more.

When we are in pain it puts us on our knees and turns our face towards God. That is a good thing.

Without suffering, we might forget God all together and just enjoy life. God loves us so much he allows constant storms in our lives to keep us falling on him.

So, we can rejoice in our trials and pressures and pain knowing that God is doing something; he's making us stronger.

Application

Christian, can I just encourage you this morning to rejoice in what God has done for you through Christ.

He justified you through Christ's death.

He has made peace between you and himself.

He has given you access into his presence by grace.

He has promised to glorify you; to make you like Christ.

It will happen.

He has promised.

You shall be changed.

One day the perishable will put on the imperishable and you will have a new body.

You'll be able to love, adore and enjoy God with no more hinderances, no more struggles and no time constraints.

You will have no more tears. No more death. No more sin. You will be morally perfected.

That is cause for rejoicing.

You may be struggling today.

Life is hard.

Suffering is real.

But God is there. He sees you. He's doing something.

Count it all joy my brothers and sisters when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. **James 1**

If you are here today and you don't know Jesus Christ, you are missing out on life, abundant life, peace, grace, joy, hope, love.

Come to Jesus.