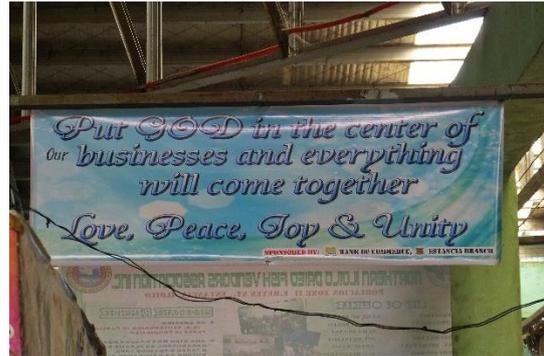


Rejoicing in God, Romans 5:11-21, Sep. 17, 2017



Christians are putting God in the center of their activities. This will manifest our Godliness and our true position towards God and that we belong to His family. Through our faith from first to last do we express our being justified and that we have been declared righteous.

Certainly, there are still many things going on around us that are just Godlessness, but we don't have to live like that. We can rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation, Rom. 1:11.

Rejoicing

Our justification manifests itself rejoicing. Romans speaks about three levels of rejoicing. These are actually stages of Christian growth, our maturity in Christ. Here are the various stages of rejoicing in the hope of glory:

- We learn to rejoice in our spiritual position.
- To rejoice in our present troubles.
- To rejoice in God Himself our powerful Father and Friend.

1. Rejoicing in our Justification.

We have peace with God. I belong to the family of God, I am His son and He is Abba Father to me. In Christ God is my loving Father full with mercies and grace, He protects me. I am not afraid for death anymore. Jesus has overcome it. Nobody accuses me anymore before God. The war is over!

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Therefore, since we have been justified [that is, acquitted of sin, declared blameless before God] by faith, [let us grasp the fact that] we have peace with God [and the joy of reconciliation with Him] through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed).² Through Him we also have **access by faith into this [remarkable state of] grace in which we [firmly and safely and securely] stand. Let us rejoice in our [a]hope** and the confident assurance of [experiencing and **enjoying] the glory of [our great] God [the manifestation of His excellence and power]. Romans 5:1-2.**

2. Rejoicing in our suffering

We have access to continued grace, enabling us to stand in the midst of pressures, problems, trials and difficulties. In Christ, I can approach Him with freedom, Heb. 10:19-22.

Peter 4:12, Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

James 1:2, Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds,

Mat. 5: 11-12, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Phil. 1:29, For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ **not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,**

Romans 5:3, And not only this, **but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance;**⁴ and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation].⁵ **Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

Examples:

We learn something about ourselves that we are so weak. We learn something about the Lord, His strength, the way He works, we experience His love and grace. We see Him work!

- Mother and child birth
- Losing your job / troubles in your work

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- Getting sick with healing process or not healing at all
- Family life
- Secular life: athlete or soldiers

There will be tribulations, but we don't have to tribulate! We can have that quiet soul and be still and wait how the Lord deals with the affairs of His children.

Then we can rejoice in our growing conformity to the character of Jesus Christ.

John 14:3 & 19, *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and I will take you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. 19, After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.*

3. Rejoicing in God

Everything comes to us through Christ. *"I am the way, the Truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me". John 1: 1-14, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..... The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

This is the way we see God. When we see the greatness of Jesus, we see the greatness of God. When we see and know the love of Jesus, we know the heart of God. Therefore, we are to rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, V2.

Romans 5:11

*Not only that, but we also **rejoice in God [rejoicing in His love and perfection] through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom we have now received and enjoy our reconciliation [with God].*

How do you see the greatness of Jesus?

From V12 until the end of the chapter we can see the record of the greatness of Jesus Christ.

V12-V14 us in Adam, where we start as a race.

V15-V17 contrasting what we are in Christ

V18-V19 summary of these thoughts

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V12-V14

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

¹³ *To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.*

Through Adam sin entered the world and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-

We sin because we are all sons and daughters of Adam, and **we die** because we are sons and daughters of Adam.

Adam broke the command of God before the law was given and we broke that specific command in Adam. We were present in him and we die as he died because of a broken command. What a “gift” Adam gave us!

V15-17

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

The gift through Christ is totally different than the “gift” from Adam.

In Adam we all die once.

However, Christ brought a repeated and ever-growing experience of life to all who are in Him. We take life from Jesus a thousand times a day.

Adam trespassed once and brought death to all of us.

Jesus died once and brought life – despite thousands of trespasses. All my life, as many times as I sin, His grace and mercies are always there. No matter how

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many trespasses will be involved in my record, there is freedom in Christ and forgiveness for all of them.

V18-V19

*Consequently, just as **one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.** ¹⁹ **For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.***

Death – judgment or condemnation – comes to not because of our own, but because of Adam’s sins. “Gift from Adam”. Sin and guilt were not an option, those were ours by default. It is part of our nature.

So, when we are in Christ, having worth and love is not something that we earn – it is a gift from the Lord Jesus. It is part of our new, true nature.

Let us pray.