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Sermon Notes

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Rejoicing in the Hope of the Glory of God

Romans 5:1-2

I. A Tale of Two Mountains and One Inexpressible Journey

Majestic mountains demonstrate God's glory powerfully! (Karakorams in Pakistan)

A. Moses and God's Glory

- On top of Mt. Sinai... time of deep fellowship with the Lord

Exodus 33:18-23 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." ¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." ²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

- Face radiant; Israelites terrified of him... VEIL TO COVER FACE!!

B. The Disciples and Jesus' Glory: the Mount of Transfiguration

Mark 9:2-8 There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

C. Paul and God's Glory

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. ³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- ⁴ was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

The very thing denied to Moses on that mountain is promised to us; the tiny glimpse given to the disciples on another mountain nothing compared to the glory promised to us!! The brief vision of paradise Paul saw he was forbidden to speak!!

My purpose today: that you may know what it is to exult in the glory of God!!

II. Exulting in the Glory of God: Our Original Purpose and Final Destiny

Illus. The chief end of man: to glorify God and enjoy Him forever

A. Our Original Purpose

1. The Unchanging Glory and Majesty of God
2. Created in His Image
3. Created to Enjoy His Glory
4. Created to Radiate His Glory

B. Our Tragic Exchange & Its Devastating Effects

1. Sin the tragic exchange
2. Sin the destructive force
 - a. lost our own glory
 - b. lost our ability to see and enjoy God's glory

C. God's Complete Salvation: Original Purpose Restored

1. God's glory restored as the center of our lives
2. God's grace restoring God's glory in us gradually day by day
3. God's promise: someday you will see my glory fully AND SURVIVE!!!

III. Immense Treasures Await Us: Justification by Faith and Total Assurance

A. Paul's Intention: Total Assurance

1. Absolute confidence that what God has begun in you He will complete by His power and for His glory

2. Necessary because our struggles with THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL are so discouraging

B. Paul's Goal: God Gets the Glory, You Get the Joy

C. Paul's Method: Bringing out some of the treasure now... full payment LATER!!

IV. Unpacking the Treasures Jewel by Jewel

Illus. Ali Baba's cave

He had expected to find naught save outer gloom in this robbers' den, and he was surprised to see the whole room filled with bales of all manner stuffs, and heaped up from sole to ceiling with camelloads of silks and brocades and embroidered cloths and mounds on mounds of varicolored carpetings. Besides which, he espied coins golden and silver without measure or account, some piled upon the ground and others bound in leathern bags and sacks.

A. We have been justified by faith

1. Begin with Christ's finished work on the Cross

2. Link to doctrine of Romans 1-4

- a. total depravity, under the wrath of God

- b. Christ's work on the Cross absorbed God's wrath, demonstrated God's justice

- c. justification accomplished by faith alone, apart from works

- d. the faith that justifies is Abraham's faith... total confidence in God's power to do what He has promised

3. NOTE: verb tense... "We HAVE BEEN justified" It's a settled, accomplished fact, and no one can take it away!

- a. God has declared us righteous IN CHRIST

- b. our righteousness is not our own, but is a gift from God...

- c. Christ's "asbestos robe" draped over our shoulders

Since we have been justified by faith, what is the result of this? What comes out of it?

B. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

1. Incredible gift! Peace with God
2. Proper understanding impossible without understanding previous status
 - a. previously: at war with God, God at war with us

vs. 10 *“For if when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son...”*

- b. our mind was hateful toward God

Romans 8:7 *“The sinful mind is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”*

- c. we were under the wrath of God

Ephesians 2:3 *“Like the rest we were by nature objects of wrath.”*

3. STOP!!! Understand what we are saying

Illus. God created the immense universe around us

On a clear night, you can see 1/40 millionth of the stars in our Galaxy, the Milky Way (in which there are 200 billion stars); this is a disc, 100 million light years (600,000 trillion miles) across, 2000 light years thick. The sun is a small star in this galaxy, revolving through it at 150 miles/sec. And will finish its first orbit of the galaxy in 200 billion years; there are at least 50 billion galaxies like ours, more likely 100 billion galaxies in the universe!!!

God spoke, and that came into existence out of nothing

That’s the God who is angry at sinners! There is no worse situation to be in than to have infinite power of that magnitude against you

4. BUT NOW... God is no longer your enemy... all that infinite power is at work for your ultimate salvation!!

Romans 8:31 *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

Ephesians 1:19 [Paul prays that you may know] *the hope to which he has called you, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”*

There is no measure to the blessing of this state of peace with God

5. NOT “the peace of God”

Philippians 4:6-7 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- a. “peace of God” is an experience of peace in the midst of your circumstances
- b. it’s a peacefulness of mind, free from anxiety, a deep personal sense of well-being, a feeling of comfort and glow before God
- c. this is a tremendous gift... BUT IT IS NOT WHAT PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT HERE!!
- d. this is not an “experience” of peace, but a condition of permanent peaceful relationship with God
- e. God is no longer your enemy

Martyn Lloyd-Jones: “You will never experience the peace of God until you have peace with God.”

Summary: Because we have justification by faith, we are not and forever in a state of peace with God... God is no longer our enemy and never will be again. His power which would have been directed toward your destruction in hell is not working mightily in you to bring you to glory in heaven!!

PEACE WITH GOD!!

C. Introduction to God

vs. 2 [NASB] “*through whom we have also obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand...*”

1. “Also” = something else, something additional (NIV skips this!)
2. “Access” means entry, ability to come right into the presence of God!!
3. Greek verb: “We have already received” (i.e. once for all)
 - a. once for all time, we have received this access

b. better concept is “Introduction”

Illus. Imagine seeking an audience with the Emperor of China; in order simply to stand in his presence and speak, you had to have an introduction... a way to enter into his presence, into his throne room; imagine if his son, the only heir to the throne introduced you... this is the concept

1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God...”

c. when we were justified by faith, God settled His warfare with us and was at peace with us

d. NOT ONLY THIS, BUT ALSO... we have gained an introduction into His very presence

4. All other access based on this introduction

Ephesians 2:18 “For through Christ both Jewish and Gentile believers have access to the father by one Spirit.”

Ephesians 3:12 “In Christ and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

Hebrews 4:16 [Because we have a tender, merciful, perfect high priest, Jesus Christ] “...let us therefore approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Hebrews 10:22 “... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.”

Christ died on the cross to bring you right into God’s very presence... now by faith, then face to face!!

D. Into this grace in which we stand

vs. 2 [NASB] “through whom we have also obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand...”

1. A whole, new country... a whole new status before God

2. Two possible states before God: under law, under grace

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

3. Formerly “under law”
 - a. law stood over us, condemning us, setting a standard we could NEVER live up to
 - b. “under law”, we’re under condemnation... every line standing against us, keeping a record of each transgression
4. Presently: “under grace”

Here, Paul says “standing in grace”

- a. whole new status before God
- b. covered, cloaked, living in a new land of grace
- c. grace = God’s lavish determination to bless people who deserve his wrath
- d. total coverage for sin

Illus. The “shower of grace”

5. Here, “standing in grace”
 - a. complete security in Christ
 - b. Christ’s power in and around you causing you stand, especially when you’re weakest

Romans 14:4 “Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”

2 Corinthians 1:21 “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ.”

- c. nothing can move you out of grace... you can’t sin your way out of it
6. God’s grace is powerfully effective IN YOU as well!!!

1 Corinthians 15:10 “By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect!!!”

Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘NO!!!!’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live godly lives in this present age...”

This grace does not let you lay back into a lifestyle of sin and rebellion against God... it's not some gentle breeze across a field of daisies on a warm June afternoon... it's much more like the awesome power of the whirlwind that sucked Elijah up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

Summary: Because you have been justified by faith you now have a whole new relationship with God. He was once your enemy, and all His power threatened you with eternal destruction. Now He is at peace with you, and all His power is at work in and around you for your salvation; you have also gained an introduction into His very present, a whole new standing of grace which constantly cleanses you and transforms you from within

Now you're ready for the goal

E. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God

1. Lit. “We exult over it” “We boast about it”
2. What does it mean to exult??
 - a. unrestrained, unbridled joy
 - b. like a mother racing across a field to embrace her 10-year old who's just been rescued from kidnapers
3. What does it mean to boast about it? We talk constantly about it with incredible joy

Over what? “The hope of the glory of God”

4. What is “the hope of the glory of God”??
 - a. see God's glory...
 - i) Moses couldn't; disciples saw just a glimpse; Paul forbidden to speak of it
 - ii) we are destined to see it face to face

[Jesus prayed for this!!] *John 17:24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

[Paul said it would happen] *1 Corinthians 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

[Revelation states it openly!!] *Revelation 21:22-23; 22:3-5*

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

b. be transformed by God's glory into glory ourselves

Romans 8:18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed IN US."

i) the gospel produces this glory in us

1 Corinthians 2:7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

2 Thessalonians 2:14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ii) the glory grows step by step as we obey the gospel

2 Corinthians 3:18 "We who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed from glory into glory..."

iii) our sufferings help produce this glory in us

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

iv) the journey is completed when we see God's face

5. BUT we have it in HOPE now... not in fullness

***Romans 8:24-25 hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵
But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.***

Not a vague "hope for the best" situation... something desired and very uncertain:
"I hope it doesn't rain on our picnic", or "I hope we can have a child someday" or "I
hope I can find work in this city"

Christian hope is something based on the faithfulness of God to keep His promises!

We exult in the hope of the glory of God!!!!

IV. Glorifying in the Treasures

- A. Glorifying while we pray
- B. Glorifying when Satan accuses