

## REJOICING IN HOPE

### Romans 5:1-2

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. In Rom. 3:21-4:25, Paul used Scripture and logic to show that justification is on the basis of faith.
  - 1. A law/works system produces frustration and doubt.
  - 2. We cannot possibly keep the law perfectly.
  - 3. In contrast, God's grace/faith system results in peace.
- B. Paul refers back to chapter 4 with a "therefore."
  - 1. Since we are justified by faith...
  - 2. We are reconciled to God...
  - 3. We have peace *with* God...
  - 4. We enjoy the peace *of* God, through Jesus Christ.
- C. Christianity is designed to make us rejoice.
  - 1. Paul's ability to survive hardships (2 Cor. 11:23-29).
  - 2. Not just endure, but to triumph, 8:37.
  - 3. No matter the problems, he had peace and hope because God loved him.
- D. Why rejoice?
  - 1. NAS uses the word "exult" for "rejoice."
  - 2. The words "exult" and "rejoice" are actually translated "boast."
  - 3. This is not a boasting in ourselves, but boasting in what God has done, 1 Cor. 1:31.
    - a. Paul says we "exult" ["boast"] in God.
    - b. This is bragging about what God has done.
- E. Three times in this chapter, Paul gives reason for rejoicing.

#### I. THE WAR IS OVER.

- A. Verse 1, "*We have peace with God.*"
  - 1. Jn. 14:27 – "*Peace I leave with you.*"
  - 2. Gentiles were once separate from God, Eph. 2:12.
    - a. The ongoing struggle between Jew and Gentile.
    - b. Thus the reason for the discussion of law/works.
  - 3. Eph. 2:14-18 – He Himself is our peace.
- B. Three things are immediately true:
  - 1. We lose our fear of God.
    - a. No longer just a judge – now a Father, 1 Jn. 4:17-18.
    - b. Jesus speaks of God as a Father 44 times as recorded in Matthew alone.
      - i. Gal. 4:4-7
      - ii. 1 Jn. 3:1-3
    - c. He still disciplines, Heb. 12:7-11.
  - 2. We lose our fear of death, Heb. 2:14-15.
  - 3. We have the answer to our conscience when we sin, 1 John 1:5-10.

#### II. ACCESS TO THE KING.

- A. Romans 5:2 (NIV) – "*...through whom we have gained access...*"
- B. The story of Esther, Esther 4:8, 11; 5:1-2.
- C. Who would dare to stand before the God of everything? Heb. 10:19-22

#### III. SOMETHING BEYOND.

- A. Romans 5:2, "*And we rejoice [boast] in the hope of the glory of God.*" (NIV)
  - 1. Biblical hope is not just wishful thinking, but confident expectation.
  - 2. It is both sure and steadfast, Heb. 6:19.
  - 3. We look at life ahead, Jn. 14:1-3, 19.