

PRESENT JOY FOR FUTURE GLORY

Embracing and Displaying New Perspective Living

Romans Series
PBC 2025

Text: Romans 5:1-11

*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.⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.¹¹ **More than that, we also rejoice in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Introduction:

In 1980, two friends working as a movie production team—one a writer and the other a producer—were desperate for a breakthrough. They had put a lot of effort into several projects that, to be fair, were disastrous collaborative failures. They had enjoyed success on their own, but they had yet to secure a contract as a duo.

But they had an idea for a movie they believed would be a box office hit. It was about time travel, where someone from the future went back to the past with information to prevent a catastrophic event from happening in the future. After writing a basic script and sketching out the plot, they set out to pitch their movie to as many studios as possible. They received more than 40 rejections! Finally, one studio decided to give the movie a chance and signed a tentative deal with them to produce and market the

movie when it came out. Production began in 1984, and the movie was released in theaters in July 1985. Their movie was a runaway success with moviegoers and was the highest-grossing movie of the year. *"Back to the Future"* won multiple awards and was followed by two sequels (1989 and 1990). Film critics consider "Back to the Future" to be one of the greatest science fiction films and among the best films ever made!

Whatever you think of this movie (and its sequels), one thing is certain – it tapped into our deep desire to look into the future and use what we see to shape our present life and behavior.

Imagine the incredible advantage you'd have in nearly every part of life if you could see into the future and use that knowledge for your immediate benefit. Picture the results if you knew which stocks to invest in ahead of time. Think about how life might change if you knew which career opportunities to pursue and which to avoid. Consider how emotionally stable you could be if you knew which relationships to nurture and which to steer clear of in advance. **In short, your life could be greatly improved if you knew the future before it happened. We often express this deep desire with the phrase – *"If I knew then what I know now."***

While we can't predict the future in ways that will alter the value of our stock portfolio or guarantee specific career or relationship outcomes, we do have the advantage of knowing something about the future that can dramatically change our present reality. In Romans 5:1-11, Paul reminds us that when we were justified, we were reconciled to God in ways that brought two powerful changes to our lives: we have ongoing, unbreakable peace with God (5:1), and we have been given a spiritual passport granting us irrevocable standing in the Kingdom of Grace (5:2) as well as unlimited access to God (5:11). But that is not all that happened to us.

When we are justified by faith and reconciled to God through the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, we gain certain knowledge about our future that, when properly understood, should significantly influence how

we think, speak, act, and live in three key areas: our hope for the future (5:2); our capacity to endure intense, prolonged suffering (5:3-10); and our personal relationship with God (5:11). Put differently, the benefit of our peace with God and access to Grace gives us:

- Present Joy for Future Glory (5:2)
- Sustaining Joy in Present Suffering (5:3-10)
- Satisfying Joy from Knowing God (5:11)

This morning, I want to examine the first benefit—how confident expectation about our future reality creates unquenchable, exuberant joy in our present circumstances, no matter what they might be. **I want us to see how four things Paul says in this text create in us a present joy for future glory (5:2 – “and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”)**

I. A New Attitude Commended for Us: Joy

and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God

A. Joy Defined – “we boast = we rejoice”

- The term for rejoice is not the regular word for “joy” that Paul and the NT writers employed. It is the term “boast” (καυχώμεθα; καυχάομαι).
- Paul has already mentioned “boasting” in this letter. Self-righteous Jews boasted about the law they did not obey (2:23). In response, Paul said that even Abraham’s works did not give him a reason to boast (4:2). Self-righteous works might be reasons to boast before people, but they are useless when it comes to boasting before God, the one who truly matters.
- However, **there is another form of boasting – one that is completely acceptable and truly praiseworthy** – and it is the boasting he mentions three times in this paragraph (vss. 2, 3, 11).
- When Paul uses this term, he is not referring to the arrogant, self-glorifying kind of glory that someone might claim for themselves.
- He is talking about a **deep joy that manifests as unrestrained happiness or jubilation** for something that has happened to them.
- Maybe the best way to describe this term is **exuberant jubilation**.

B. Joy Described – exuberant, unquenchable jubilation

1. In terms of what it looks like – unquenchable, exuberant jubilation that reflects profound gratitude and delight in God for His gracious provision for His people. (BIBLICAL EXAMPLES)

- ***Creation displays this kind of jubilation – Psalm 96:11-13*** *Let the heavens be **glad**, and let the earth **rejoice**; let the sea **roar**, and all that fills it; ¹² let the field **exult**, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest **sing for joy** ¹³ before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.*
- ***Israel displayed this kind of jubilation after the crossing of the Red Sea – Psalm 106:9-12*** *He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry, and he led them through the deep as through a desert. ¹⁰ So he saved them from the hand of the foe and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. ¹¹ And the waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left. ¹² Then they believed his words; **they sang his praise**.*
- ***David displayed this kind of jubilation when God restored the Ark of the Covenant to its rightful place in the tabernacle at Jerusalem – 2 Sam 6:12-15*** *And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David **with rejoicing**. ¹³ And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. ¹⁴ **And David danced before the LORD with all his might**. And David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD **with shouting and with the sound of the horn**. ¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw **King David leaping and dancing before the LORD**, and she despised him in her heart.*
- ***The Father displayed this kind of jubilation when the prodigal son returned – Luke 15:20-27*** *And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and **celebrate**. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to **celebrate**. ²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, **he heard music and dancing**. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’*

- **Heaven displays this kind of jubilation when a sinner is saved – Luke 15:7, 10** “I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents!”
2. In terms of when it is present – what we seen from these texts
 - It is expressed in praise before God (Creation; Israel)
 - It is visible to others (David; Angels rejoicing)
 - It makes a powerful impact on others for good or evil (Father and the Prodigal Son).
 - This kind of true joy can’t be hidden!
 3. In terms of its source – something from God through Christ that we did not earn and that we cannot lose: “hope of glory”

II. A New Confidence Cultivated in Us: Hope

and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God

- The term “hope” expresses a confident expectation of something sure and secure. More than wishful thinking – it is certainty!
- The idea is that there is a future reality that is secured for us, has already been granted to us, and is waiting for our arrival.
- **Illustration:** An inheritance placed in a trust fund that matures when the individual turns 21. The money is real and fully belongs to the individual, even though it is not accessible under the terms of the trust. However, all of the funds will be fully available on the person’s 21st birthday. Additionally, let’s add one more detail to our illustration—the trust grants progressively increasing amounts of the funds to the individual each year until they reach 21.
- What Paul is saying is this: ***There is a future reality that God has promised us.*** That promise has been ***secured through the work of His Son.*** We have been ***given a Divine Guarantor, the Holy Spirit,*** who not only guarantees that we will receive the full inheritance in the future but also ***gives us ongoing, daily access*** to what has been promised.
- And on the strength of this promise, we have confident assurance (hope) in something God has promised that produces present joy in us regardless of our current circumstance.
 - ◇ We possess this confident expectation personally
 - ◇ We express it corporately

- ◇ We are strengthened by it daily
- ◇ We exhibit it constantly, consistently, and joyfully to others

III. A Restored Glory Imparted to Us: Glory of God

and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God

So what is it that God has promised to us for which we wait with such confident expectation and that produces such unquenchable, exuberant joy in us personally and corporately? Answer: “the glory of God.”

A. Defined in Scripture – it is the radiant, multi-faceted splendor of God’s person (who He is and what He is like). It is the sum of God’s perfections, and when you see them, they are unimaginably beautiful and gloriously radiant! (The “Glory Journey”)

1. He describes it to us in Ezekiel 1:22-28

*Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. ²³ And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. ²⁴ And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. ²⁵ And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings. ²⁶ **And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.** ²⁷ And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. ²⁸ **Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.** And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.*

2. He explained it to us in Exodus 33:18-23

*Moses said, “**Please show me your glory.**” ¹⁹ And he said, “**I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.**” ²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹ And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”*

3. He promised it to us in Isaiah 60:1-2

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

4. He manifested it to us in Jesus (John 1:14; Matt 17:1-5; 2 Pet 1:18-21)

John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, **and we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth.

***Matthew 17:1-5** And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.² **And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.**³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah."⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*

5. He restored it to us at Salvation (Romans 3:23; 5:2; Isaiah 60:1-5)

Romans 3:23** for all have sinned **and fall short (completely lack) of the glory of God,

***Romans 5:2** and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God*

***Isaiah 60:1-5** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and **the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and **his glory will be seen upon you.**³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.⁵ **Then you shall see and be radiant;** your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

6. He grows it in us progressively through the Holy Spirit's

illumination and application of Scripture to our lives (2 Cor 3:18)

***2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, **beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.** For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

7. He will complete it fully when we arrive in His presence (Matt

13:43; Romans 8:18-30; Phil 3:20-21)

***Matthew 13:43** Then **the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.** He who has ears, let him hear.*

***Romans 8:18-30** 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 hope²¹ 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.**²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ 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.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, **and those whom he justified he also glorified.**

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ **who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

B. Revealed from Heaven

1. In Creation (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-20)

2. In Jesus (John 1:14)

- **Jesus came from Glory to reveal God's glory (John 1:14)**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **He returned to Glory (John 17:4-5)**

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

- **He will come again in Glory (Acts 1:10-11; Matt 24:30; Titus 2:13).**

Acts 1:10-11 *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

Matthew 24:30 *Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

Titus 2:13 *waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

- **Prays that His disciples to be allowed to see and share His glory (John 17:24)**

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

3. To World who rejects it apart from divine enlightenment and enablement (Rom 1:18-23; 2 Cor 4:3-4)

- **Romans 1:18-23** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.**²¹ **For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**²² **Claiming to be wise, they***

became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

- **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

4. To Believers who see it, receive it, and are being transformed by it!

- **We see it** (John 1:14)

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we have seen his glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- **We have been helped by God to receive it** (2 Cor 4:5-6)

For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- **We are being transformed by it** (2 Cor 3:18; 1 John 3:2-3)

2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

IV. A New Perspective Adopted by Us: Present Hope for Future Glory

- This hope enables us to endure and encourages us as we endure!
Romans 8:18. *For I consider (reckon) that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*
- We had this glory but lost it in Adam (Rom 3:23; 5:12-14)
- We have this glory now through Christ (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27 – “Christ in you, the hope of glory!”)
- We will receive this glory then in our body (Rom 8:30; 1 Cor 15:40-49)
- Because we are reconciled to God (Rom 5:2)
- Because we are in Christ (Col 1:27)

Conclusion:

Daniel Hames and Michael Reeves (God Shines Forth) made this sobering observation: “Happy mission presupposes Happy Christians! There is a kind of mission that can be carried out by miserable Christians, and though it

may be doctrinally correct and carefully organized, it will only reflect the emptiness of their own hearts. Christians who don't enjoy God can't and won't wholeheartedly commend him to others!"

Romans 5:1-11 is the antidote for miserable Christians!

It is the antidote because it verifies that justified people (us) have been reconciled to God and are being restored to His radiant, glorious likeness (glory)—a likeness they once had but lost at the Fall! And our hope in this future glory should inspire in us an unquenchable, contagious joy that marks our lives, shows in our faces, and spills out of our mouths.

1. **What has filled your vision so completely that you've lost hope in God's glory?**
 - o Career anxiety? Financial pressure? Relationship problems?
2. **What has blinded your eyes to its radiant beauty?**
 - o Sin? Disappointment? Comparison with others?
3. **What has extinguished your joy?**
 - o Bitterness? Unforgiveness? Unmet expectations?
4. **Are you living as if the promise of glory has been taken from you?**
 - o Complaining instead of rejoicing?
 - o Despairing instead of hoping?
 - o Withdrawing instead of witnessing?

More importantly, **how do we restore our hope and reignite our joy** God's promise to glorify us with His own glory?

There is a two-fold remedy:

1. ***We must behold his glory to be changed into that glory (2 Cor 3:18)***
 - We see the glory of God as we behold it in Scripture and as we gaze on that glory in the Scripture, the Holy Spirit takes that word and transforms our inner man – our countenance.
 - There is an undeniable, amazing transformation of their whole internal person that transforms their relationships and perspective (they used to be angry, selfish, arrogant, brittle, etc., now, they are different in ways that are notable and undeniable!

- And those who experience that difference are blown away! How did this happen? The process is sanctification (6-7) but the effect is glorification (8)!

2. *We must purify ourselves as we wait for His appearing (1 John 3:2-3)*

1 John 3:2-3 *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*