

**Romans 5:1-2 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* <sup>2</sup> *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.*

## **I. Paul, the Tabernacle, and the Glory**

### **A. Paul**

1. **Philippians 3:4-6 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup> . . . *If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:* <sup>5</sup> *circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;* <sup>6</sup> *as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.*
2. At the very least familiar with the most significant events in Israel's history

### **B. The Tabernacle, The Temple, and the Glory**

1. The glory of God fills the tabernacle
  - a. **Exodus 40:34-38 (ESV)** <sup>34</sup> *Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* <sup>35</sup> *And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.* <sup>36</sup> *Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out.* <sup>37</sup> *But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up.* <sup>38</sup> *For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.*
  - b. The presence of the glory
    - (1) Determined Israel's status as covenant people
    - (2) Affirmed Israel's status as beloved
2. The glory of God fills the temple
  - a. **2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.* <sup>2</sup> *And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house.* <sup>3</sup> *When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."*
3. The departure of the glory
  - a. Ezekiel's vision
  - b. The destruction of Jerusalem
  - c. Creates a longing for the glory
    - (1) A messiah who will restore the glory to the nation

### **C. Paul and the Shekinah**

1. The glory of God dwells with His people
  - a. For their covenant good
  - b. For the good of the nations (an invitation to covenant joy)

2. Paul's personal experience
  - a. **Acts 9:3 (ESV)** *Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.*
  - b. **2 Corinthians 12:3-4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> *And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—<sup>4</sup> and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.*
3. The Spirit of God dwells in the believer and in the church
  - a. **Colossians 1:27 (ESV)** *To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

## II. What does Paul mean, “We rejoice in hope of the glory of God”?

### A. “Rejoice”

1. To boast, to exult in, to glory
2. Glory in the hope of glory

### B. “Hope”

1. Not the mamby-pamby present day “hope” which is simply a vague, uncertain desire that we may gain some favor or have a pleasant experience
2. Biblical hope is the certainty that God who makes promises has the integrity, power, ability, and will to keep every promise He makes
  - a. Hope is the certainty that God will be God and He will keep His promises to those who are His
  - b. Hope is an unusual degree of confidence in God's holy, righteous, gracious character
3. “We glory in the certainty of the glory of God”

### C. What is Paul thinking?

1. We will see God in all His glory!
  - a. Moses on the Mountain - only caught a glimpse
  - b. Peter, James, and John on the mountain only got a taste
  - c. **Matthew 5:8 (ESV)** *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
    - (1) I didn't get to see the Queen but I shall see with my own eyes the King of kings and Lord of lords.
    - (2) **We may not be worthy to approach the rulers of this world but through faith in Jesus we are counted worthy to worship the King!**
  - d. **Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,<sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*
2. We will see Christ in all His glory
  - a. Jesus' prayer
    - (1) **John 17:1-5 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,<sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all*

*whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

- (2) **John 17:24 (ESV)** *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.*
- b. **Christ's prayer to the Father will be realized in those who are justified by faith in Jesus!**
  - (1) They had seen him as the suffering servant
  - (2) We will see him as the glorious Son
3. **We will be shaped and molded by the glory into His glory**
  - a. **We will be glorified**
    - (1) **Romans 3:23 (ESV)** *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
    - (2) **Romans 8:18 (ESV)** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*
    - (3) **1 John 3:2 (ESV)** *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.*
  - b. **We are being glorified**
    - (1) **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)** *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.*
    - (2) **God the Holy Spirit works in each believer transforming them more and more into the likeness of Jesus thus fitting us to dwell forever in the presence of His glory**

### III. Now what?

#### A. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God

1. Calls for faith in Christ
2. Calls for humility and gratitude
3. Calls for obedience and testimony

#### B. Cornerstone, it is not a potluck or a program that will attract unbelievers to Christ.

1. It is you, filled with the Spirit upon faith in Jesus, fully convinced, rejoicing, glorying in the certainty of the glory of God
2. It is you, knowing the glory, anticipating the glory, glorying in the glory that will attract unbelievers and bring the outsiders in.
  - a. This was the truth of the shekinah glory in Israel
    - (1) The glory of God would be a blessing for the people of God
    - (2) The glory of God in the people of God would be an invitation to the nations
  - b. Glory in the glory!