

Justified unto His Glory

Romans

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Bible Text: Romans 5:2

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We are going to continue our series here in this book. We are right in the middle of looking at the great privileges that we have being justified by faith alone in Christ alone by his grace alone. What a blessing that is.

So we want to begin reading Romans chapter five and verse one. Our section that we are going to be looking at is in verse two, the last phrase of that verse two, the last phrase of that verse. But we want to read all the way down here to verse 11.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.¹

We have seen these five privileges and there are more, but here in the context of Romans he give us five results, as it were, of a man that has been justified by faith. You will note that in verse one when he says, "Therefore..." pulling right out of chapter four concerning the Lord Jesus Christ whom God has raised up from the dead who was delivered for our offenses, raised again for our justification. "Therefore..." now repenting and believing that, being justified by faith we have certain things that are now true for us.

¹ Romans 5:1-11.

The first one of those is in verse one. We have a change of relationship. We have peace with God through our mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Secondly, in verse two, we have access by faith into this grace wherein we are standing. This is our right of access or introduction right into the grace of God. And that, too, is by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, and this is our text for this morning in verse two, we have a different expectation, a different delight or joy. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Fourthly, we have a different attitude about suffering, verse three. “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also.”² The word “glory” is the same Greek term translated “rejoice” there in verse two.

And then if you go all the way down to verse 11 you will see the fifth one there when it says, “And not only so, but we also joy...”³ There is our same term, rejoice. “We joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”⁴

Our joy, our attitude, our delight, our exaltation is in a person, in the gospel. And that gospel is concerning his own dear Son.

In church there should be a joy that is a joy unspeakable and full of what? Full of glory. This is what we are hoping in. This is what we are confident about. This is the attitude that we have in our own hearts. We don't need external rock bands to motivate our joy. We have an inward joy because we have seen and beheld and known a living man, the God man, Jesus Christ. And it is the joy that should be brought into every service. Every time we get together it should be a joy that we are to be continually cultivating, feeding, allowing to flow out of our life as believing people. We have a peace with God. We have an access by faith in that grace wherein we stand and we have a joy and hope of the glory of God. This is a public expression of delight.

Through this week who did you share your love with of the Son of God? What was the expression and confession of your heart and of your mouth? What was your countenance as you met other people who are in need of the Savior, of the gospel? This is the power of God unto salvation. This is that which Paul said, “I am not ashamed thereof, of the gospel of Christ.”⁵ It was that which motivated everything that he did. He publicly joyed in that Savior. He publicly joyed in his circumstances.

Look at verse three. “And not only so, but we glory in,”⁶ our what? We glory in our tribulations. Yes, we feel the pain and yes we feel the discouragement and yes we feel the

² Romans 5:3.

³ Romans 5:11.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ See Romans 1:16

⁶ Romans 3:1.

grayness and the gravity of that pain. And in many times we may even cry out in pain because of that pressure that is come upon our heart and our life. But mention the sweet name of Jesus and right through those thickening clouds there is the light of delight. You see it in their eyes and you see it in a believer when another believer comes into a hospital room.

There is one look when the doctor comes in, right? There is another look if a nurse comes in like, what are you going to do to me. But there is another look when a believer walks into that room because there is this common joy. We glory in hope of the glory of God. We exalt in our tribulations also.

And then in verse 11, the very focus and object of our joy and delight, our inner exaltation in which we would leap for joy if we could only be in his presence right now and see him with physical eyes. We joy in God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Brethren, the very essence of a biblical Christianity is inner joy. Isn't that amazing? It is inner delight. It is not a moroseness or a discouragement. We know where things are going. We know that we are the victor. We know the dawn has come up on the horizon. And, folks, even though you may say it is getting darker and darker, it is really getting brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. We would only see and know him in his ways. Oh, how it would give you a joy unspeakable, full of glory that would overwhelm any delight in people or another love or material things that would just grip your soul.

Don't you want to be happy? Don't you want to be joyful?

How happy is God? When God thinks about himself, how happy is he?

What would it be like to be infinitely happy? I can't imagine. Can you imagine such a thing?

We are so used to doom and gloom and depression and clouds and thunders and lightning. We don't even have any idea of what that looks like. But, folks, God is infinitely delighted in himself, in his Son. When he looked at his Son and he said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,"⁷ you better know that God the Father said that with infinite joy.

We are to have a joy, verse two, a rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. Now, rejoicing in verse two is in a hope. It is in the expectation of a fulfilled promise. It is that which by faith we have gathered our minds and our hearts around that we hold tightly to our own bosom, that we engraft it and saturate it within our own soul. We are not hoping so. We are not saying, "Maybe this is going to happen." We are exalting and rejoicing in this confident expectation of a fulfilled promise the Lord has promised to his people through the Son of God.

⁷ Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5, 2 Peter 1:17.

Are you doing that today? Do you work hard to be joyful in God? This is his purposes for us.

We learned also last couple of Lord's Days ago that it is absolutely forbidden in the Scripture to exalt, to rejoice or to boast in anything else other than God.

I want us to turn to 1 Corinthians again to recover this, 1 Corinthians chapter three. And this is an explicit expression of the very character of God. He uses this in several places throughout the Scripture to call us back to that rejoicing which is to be our delight.

It says in 1 Corinthians chapter three and verse 21 he says, "Therefore let no man glory in,"⁸ who? In men. That is an explicit command. It doesn't mean that you can't give honor to whom honor is due. But when you give that honor there is a way to do it that gives glory to God. Whether you eat or drink or whatsoever you do, you are to do it all for the glory of God.⁹

Do you know there is a way to eat that gives glory to God? There is a way to say your blessing that gives glory to God, that it is not just a formality, but it says something about you and your relationship and your access into this grace wherein you are standing, the fact that you are now justified by faith. In everything you do you are to give glory to God and not to man.

He says it again in 1 Corinthians chapter one if you look down at verse 28 because God hath chosen the base things of the world and the things that are despised hath God chosen and things that are not to bring to nought the things that are so that no flesh should glory in his presence.¹⁰

And, folks, right now you and I live our lives in the very presence of God. No flesh should be glorying in man, in his presence. And he says, verse 30, "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption,"¹¹ so that just like it is written, if you glory, glory in who? Glory in the Lord.¹² If you are going to have a delight, a joy, have it in the Lord and all that he has accomplished.

There are several things in Scripture that men place their joys in. In Judges chapter seven there was a delight put in multitudes. In Psalm 49 and verse six man puts his delight and confidence in money. In Psalm 27 he puts his delight in that he is in the control of things of this life, the control of tomorrow. In 1 Corinthians chapter four man exalts in human ability, human gifts, human talents without giving glory to God. In 2 Corinthians there is a self promotion. In chapter 11 there is this human strength that men glory in or in chapter 12 and verse one they rejoice in the love of God as if they merited it.

⁸ 1 Corinthians 3:21.

⁹ See 1 Corinthians 10:31.

¹⁰ See 1 Corinthians 1:28-29.

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 1:30.

¹² See 1 Corinthians 1:31.

All of that is expressively forbidden by the Spirit.

Aren't you thankful? Oh, my friend, if you knew the taste of the joy and delight in Christ that is there and it is just a fountain. All you get is a taste. There is deluges to come. It would crush every other supposed temptation for you to delight in. It would crush it under the weight of the glory of God.

We fight the joys of this world with an infinitely greater joy, Christ and his Word.

We are, Romans chapter five and verse two, the cause of our justification by faith we are rejoicing, exalted in the confident expectation of a fulfilled promise that does not have as its source or its call men or the things of man, but we are rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. We are rejoicing and boasting in the confident expectation of a promise being fulfilled, the promise of beholding and sharing fully in the glory of God. And this is where we want to take our minds this morning. I hope you have got your hand ready to see this expectation that is out there. And if you would see it and if you would taste of it, then you would leave this morning with a joy that you can't describe as coming from anywhere else, but from him.

I want you to begin in Genesis chapter one. I want us to go back to the very beginning of all things. And we are talking about the glory of God. We are talking about the radiant outshining of all that God is. The result of God's being who he is, his moral excellencies, what we call his attributes, both those incommunicative attributes, those that he cannot share with man or any other creature lest he would cease to be God and then there are those communicative attributes that he can share with us like the love of God, that he can share without denying his own personhood.

So when we are talking about the glory of God we are talking about the result of all that he is and the result of all that he is is that there is this screaming outshining of light that is his garment, that is his home the Bible says in which he is streaming that constantly forth out of his person. His attributes demand of himself that he is constantly giving at all times, flowing from him to his Son and his Son being the express image of his own person and responding back within the godhead itself.

Ezekiel saw the glory of God in Ezekiel chapter one verses 26 through 28.

Moses approached God and said, "Show me your glory."¹³

The Bible says that God gave him an understanding that he could not see his face, face to face or he would die, but that he would show him the backside and that he couldn't show him the infinite fulness of that glory, but he would declare it with words which spoke volumes to us because we know that what the Lord was saying is that he was going to send someone who is the express image of his glory. It would be his Word made flesh.

¹³ See Exodus 33:18.

I doubt if Moses understood that.

Moses saw the glory of God. Ezekiel saw the glory of God. Paul saw the glory of God.

The Bible says that while he was on the road to Damascus the light struck him down and he recognized it and he said, ‘Who art thou, Lord?’¹⁴

He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.”¹⁵

Peter, James and John were taken up into a mount and they saw in a measure the glory of God when our Lord himself was transfigured. And the Bible says that his clothes became like radiant lightning of light, glistening, proceeding out of himself when the veil of his humanity was rolled back to behold the glory of his majesty and of who he is.

How would you like to have been there and seen that?

And, folks, you and I as believing people, we will be never fully spiritual until we get our spiritual body. And what we have been given today in a vessel of clay is merely the down payment of a coming full inheritance. The Spirit of the living God is the earnest of our inheritance unto that perfect day, Ephesians chapter one and verse 14. In other words, there is still something that has not been brought to a completion in the present time in which we are living inside of us. We are still groaning for something more and anticipating with a confident expectation, beholding in the sharing of that.

In Genesis chapter one and verse 26 and verse 27 the Bible gives to every human being the purpose of your life.

When I was younger teenagers went through a phase at that time where everybody was asked: What is the purpose for my life? Why am I here? What are we doing? Why are we existing?

God answers that question in Genesis chapter one. He says in verse 26:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.¹⁶

Man was created, verse 26, in the image of God, in the likeness of God. The word “image” here refers to a representation. Many times it is used in our Old Testament to refer to idols. An idol is a representation of a false deity. Man was created in his original creation before sin ever entered into the world, we were created to be the representation

¹⁴ Acts 9:5.

¹⁵ See Acts 9:5.

¹⁶ Genesis 1:26-27.

of God on a material planet so that when people looked upon Adam they would know and get a sense of who God is like. He was created to be the finite embodiment of the attributes and character and personality of God. That is why we were created. We were created, Genesis chapter one and verse 26, when God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."¹⁷

The word "likeness" here in the Hebrew expands on this... being this representation of God to the concept of reflection. This is the concept in which we have of a mirror in which we would hold it up to the sun or to a light and it would be the reflection of that image is that of which we call glorifying God in which the radiant outshining of his excellencies would shine upon us and inwardly we would be the accurate reflection of all that he is. And the word reflection makes sure that it would never enter into our hearts and minds that we would think that we were created to be a duplicate of God. It is a reflection.

When you look in the mirror you might say to yourself, "That is me." But we all know that is not who? That is not you. It is a reflection of you.

Folks, that is what we are supposed to be. We are not God, but we are to be a what of God? A reflection of God.

We are not identical to God. We have an earthen body in which we were originally created for the purpose of being the finite embodiment of the attributes, character and personality of God by reflecting back to God all that he is, all that he reflects to us. That is why you were created. That is why you are here on the face of this earth. You are not here on the face of the earth to get a vocation, to get a job, to go to school, to be a certain kind of person. You are here to be the embodiment and representation of God and to be the accurate reflection of all that he is. That is our purpose for living. You can do that in any vocation and any situation in which you may find yourself.

Our Lord Jesus Christ would express that truth in John 17 and verse one when he would say this to the Father. It says he lifted up his eyes to the heavens and he said this. He said, "Father, glorify thou me so that I might glorify you."¹⁸

Do you see the reflection?

And, folks, Jesus Christ is the express image of his person. He is the brightness of his glory, Hebrews chapter one says [?].

So there is this uniqueness of our creation. Something happened, something awful happened and that is man's sin.

Man fell, didn't he? In Genesis chapter two and verse 16L

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ See John 17:1.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely...¹⁹

What?

Folks, Adam was to be the representation of God. God said, “Don’t what? Don’t eat it.” So Adam should not what? He should not eat it.

God never would have shown his radiant glory upon Adam to eat of that tree. And so when Adam and Eve ate of that tree they did not glorify God. Man exchanged the radiant beauty of a glory and attribute and excellencies of God for corruption and death.

As we go back, go back to the book of Romans chapter one in which we have already covered this truth. But he says here in chapter one, verse 21... Please look at this. If you would get this in your soul it would revive your joy to live for the intent of which God has created you.

In Romans chapter one and in verse 21 it says:

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.²⁰

Verse 25. They changed the truth of God into a what? A lie. Worshipped and served the creation more than the Creator who is blessed forever more.²¹

Folks, do you and I realize that the most beautiful thing that could ever be or ever was or ever will be is God. Have you ever looked? Go down to Louis Botanical Gardens here. I love to go there, especially now because this is not an ad for the botanical gardens. Btu you go there and you see these magnificent flowers and plants and colors and majesty and you sit there and your mind is saying to yourself, if you are right you are thinking, “What an artist you are, Lord.”

And some of those plants you just look at because they are so beautiful. You would ever get a look at God you would behold him with eyes.

David would write in the Psalms, “This one thing have I desired, to be in your temple and to behold [?].”²²

¹⁹ Genesis 2:16-17.

²⁰ Romans 1:21-23.

²¹ See Romans 1:25.

Man sinned and he has changed the radiant beauty and joy and delight and character and personhood of God and his excellencies and his radiance. He exchanged all that for darkness and death and corruption.

Somebody says, “Why are things like they are?”

It is because of sin, our sin in Adam. And because of that, turn to Romans chapter three and look at verse 23. In our original creation you were created with the purpose to be the representation, the finite embodiment of all that God is, to be the accurate reflection of all of his radiant outshining and because of our sin, Romans chapter three verse 23, all have sinned and lack what? The glory of God.²³

Folks, I want to remind you of something. No man is fully human until he possesses the glory of God. Lost men are like beasts living for passions and senses and feelings, not living for the glory of God.

“All have sinned, and come short...”²⁴ The word “come short” means to be lacking because I have a shortcoming. I lack the glory of God. Because of my sin in Adam, because of your sin in Adam, because of that fall, something came into necessity by the mercy and grace of our God.

God undertook for man on behalf of his own glory in his Son, God the Father undertook the saving, reformation of fallen man to the divine image of God. We were originally created to be the representation of all that he is in a finite way and to be the accurate reflection of his glory and we fell and everything about us, as lost people, is the exact opposite. Things are not functioning like they were originally intended.

So God through his Son undertook the reformation of man to the divine image.

I want you to turn to 2 Corinthians chapter four. Take everything that we have said thus far and what now is necessary in the hearts of men and women, boys and girls, is something to go on inside your vessel of clay that it lacks. You must have a reformation that begins with a rebirth. And that rebirth is seen in the gospel, 2 Corinthians chapter four and verse three.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.”²⁵

In other words, they may acknowledge certain facts, but they can't see it. They don't see and behold the beauty of it, the glory of it.

²² See Psalm 27:4.

²³ See Romans 3:23.

²⁴ Romans 3:23.

²⁵ 2 Corinthians 4:3.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath...”²⁶ what to their minds? He has blinded it. In other words, our Spirit, our heart has eyes. And the devil has blinded those eyes so that we can’t see.

And what we don’t see is this, verse four, “The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should...”²⁷ should what? Shine unto them.

The phrase “glorious gospel of Christ,” can be translated “the gospel of the glory of Christ.” They don’t see something. They don’t know why you are delighting in God. And they don’t understand why you are glorying in tribulation. And they certainly don’t understand why you are boasting of this confident expectation of the fulfilled promise of seeing and beholding and possessing the glory of God in his finite fulness. They don’t understand that at all because they don’t see. They don’t believe. When you believe you see.

So in verse five he says we are not preaching ourselves. We are not preaching man. We are preaching Christ Jesus the Lord. He is the light of the glorious gospel and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.²⁸

Now note verse six. “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness...”²⁹ That is referring way back to what book? To Genesis, right where we were from. On that first day when darkness was over the face of the deep God said, “Let there be light.”³⁰ Listen to me. He said, “Let there be light,”³¹ and it was so. The light came into being through the mediation of his voice, of a word.

So in 2 Corinthians chapter four it says, “[But] God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, [he] hath shined...”³² Where? Inside of us. In your what? In your heart. It shined inside your heart. And what this shining is, know what it is in verse six. It is the light that is proceeding out of the knowledge of the glory of God coming to us through the face of Jesus Christ so that when we behold him, we see something way different than the world sees. It is something that gives us joy unspeakable and full of glory. It is something that causes our inside to burst with an inner joy and delight that if it would be seen enough, it might just loose your tongue. And you might sing with joy and happiness and sing in faith with a confident expectation of what is going to happen because he has shined in your heart to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

And the Bible calls this, verse seven, a treasure in an earthen vessel.

²⁶ 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

²⁷ 2 Corinthians 4:4.

²⁸ See 2 Corinthians 4:5.

²⁹ 2 Corinthians 4:6.

³⁰ Genesis 1:3.

³¹ Ibid.

³² 2 Corinthians 4:6.

We won't turn to there but in Ephesians chapter four and verse 24 the Bible speaks of this new man that has been created in true holiness and righteousness. And Colossians adds, "after the image of him that created him."³³ Amazing.

Do you know how you get saved? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the... What is the Word? His voice. What is his voice? It was made flesh in Christ speaking in his heart through his Word through the pages of his Word to us and creating inside of us as we respond to that by faith [?]. That is regeneration.

But folks, you say, "Well, ok. I am regenerated and I have this new man inside of me and it is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created it," Colossians 3:10.

But what else does that look like?

Well, do you remember when Jesus rolled back his humanity? What did they see? They saw the light of the glory of God.

Now, I wonder what you are going to look like shining. I see it in some of you already. There is this reconformity that has begun. Now listen, but not complete.

Now go back to 2 Corinthians. Go back one chapter, chapter three. Look down at verse 18 when he talks about this being changed he says, "But we all with open face..."³⁴ That is, there is no veil before our face. And what we are beholding as in a glass, that is, the Scriptures. We are looking in the reflection of the glory of God through the pages of our what? Of our Bible. So what is happening or what should be happening right now is the light, the illumination of the Spirit of God is coming down upon the pages of your Bible and it is shining to you and you see it and you are responding to what you see through your ears.

"We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from..."³⁵ one glory to another what? Another glory.

Folks, when we are justified by faith God himself undertakes for his name's sake, a reconformity. And he says that through his Son we have been predestinated to be conformed into his image.

Won't that be great? There is no greater joy than to be like God. And, folks, one day the Bible says that that salvation, the fulness of our salvation will be revealed. Listen. Peter writes, "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed."³⁶ Did you hear that? It is done. It is ready to be revealed at the last time.

³³ Colossians 3:10.

³⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:18.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ 1 Peter 1:5.

Well, why isn't God doing it? Because there is more people out there that are going to become part of the body [?] through the overflow of your delight in God by the opening up of your mouth and joyfully confessing all of your joy and happiness in Christ to other people. The overflow of the fulness of the Spirit of God.

Isn't the fruit of the Spirit...? Tell me. What is the first one? "The fruit of the Spirit is love..."³⁷ Ah, wouldn't it be a great thing if fundamentalism was known for a conquering joy? Fulness of the Spirit of God, a holy joy, a holy love that is the reflection and representation of all that he is. This is what is awaiting for us. We are awaiting a radiant future of the finite sharing of the fulness of God's nature. We are awaiting a new heaven and a new earth. We are awaiting a time where we will behold him.

John would write, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be..."³⁸ What? Like him because we will see him as he is. There is going to be an ultimate change into a future glory when we see him. Every time you see God you are changed into that image that you behold.

Now I want you to turn to Romans chapter eight. We are to be rejoicing in hope of the glory of God. We are to be in our pilgrimage striving, working, praying, living existing to be conformed into that image as much as we can in this life in preparation of that future glory.

In Romans chapter eight the Bible says, verse 28:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.³⁹

We come full circle. You and I were created to be the finite representation of all that God is on this material planet. We were to be the reflection of the glory of God. And we threw it all away. We threw it all away through death and corruption and deceitfulness and lies. We threw it all away so that in Romans 3:23 we lack the glory of God. We lived our lives being hardened through the deceitfulness of sin and alienated from the life of God, but now—now listen—but now being justified by faith through Jesus Christ every believer now is unioned with God. We are being softened every day by his grace to have the heart of flesh that is promised in that new covenant, to have the outworking of that so that no longer are we pouring forth bitterness and wrath and anger from our mouth, but we are being changed so that we... what comes out of our mouth? Kindness. That would be different, wouldn't it? To be loving, to be human and not [?].

³⁷ Galatians 5:22.

³⁸ 1 John 3:2.

³⁹ Romans 8:28-30.

Folks, in Romans eight in verse 29 he says that we are predestinated, our lives are boundaried to be conformed to the image of his Son so that his Son would be preeminent among a lot of people who are in the likeness and image of himself.

How does that happen? Well, verse 29, he foreknew you. And based on that foreknowledge in this text he predestinated you, verse 30. And he called you to himself through the gospel and when you responded by turning to him from your sin and believing the record that God has given of his Son, embracing that, calling on the name of the Lord to be saved. Those people he justified. He declared them righteous.

And, folks, all of those verbs—called, justified—past tense. Now what is the last verb? He glorified, past tense. In other words, it is the unchangeable purpose, the immutable purpose of our great God and Savior for every one of his children to be changed into the very representation of his person and a reflection of his glory and the reflection and the representation of his person is in the man Christ Jesus. We are being conformed into his image. But what I love here, folks, is this. He didn't say, "You will be glorified." He said, "It is done." He spoke it before the worlds were created. It is done.

You say, "Well, why hasn't it happened?" Because you are in the process of reformatting. You are being changed and prepared for a new heaven and new earth. You are being changed just as sure as if it had already happened.

Folks, when God says something, is there any chance someone will over throw it? None. His purposes will be fulfilled.

And so as we go back to Romans chapter five and verse two now we have a full understanding. Why would you want to boast in men at this point? Why would you want to glory in yourself as if it is your own personal talents and gifts, as if they weren't given to you. Why would you want to brag on the attainments of men when you can boast in the attainments of God?

We, today, are to be exalting in the confident expectation and the assurance of the present and future possession of the outshining of the glory of God in the face of his dear Son. And when you see him you will be like him because you will see him as he is.

Folks that truth, according to this text, "Rejoice in hope of the glory of God."⁴⁰ It means that every time we think about that confident assurance, what should rise up in our soul? Tell me.

Why do you need a rock band? This is the gospel. This is the good news. This is the power of God unto salvation to bring you back to the original intent of your creation so that you could fulfill the reason why you are living. And in his love he sent his Son so that that process could begin and come to its ultimate fulfillment. This is why an orthodox church should be full of joy, happiness in God. It doesn't mean that we don't

⁴⁰ Romans 5:2.

experience the sufferings of life, the discouragements, the things that bring a cloud over our spirit. But mention his name, mention his work, mention his gospel and, once again, there is something inside of us that wells up and says, "Hallelujah. Glory to God."

Folks, that is why we meet every Lord's Day, to rejoice in the gospel so that we will be strengthened, so that, as Jesus said, your joy would be full.

I am not going to ask you as a Christian this morning if you are more mature than you were when you first got saved or if you have grown. What I am going to ask you is this. Is your joy greater today than when you got saved? Oh, I know it has sobered. It has matured. It's had chips knocked off of it. Are you growing in the fruit of the Spirit?

Well, folks, the only thing that God the Father can reward is likeness to his Son. His Son is the only thing that he is well pleased with. He will be well pleased with us if we as a church, if we as individuals become more and more conformed so that we are representing him more and more accurately and reflecting him more and more fully.

And do you know what? Your countenance might change. It might shine because of where your eyes are fixed.

In Revelation 21 it says, John says, "I saw no temple in that city for the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."⁴¹ "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it."⁴² And listen. "And the Lamb is the light thereof."⁴³

That tells you who the glory of God is.

And Daniel says, "The wise shall shine like the stars in that day."⁴⁴

Folks, this is way bigger than do you want to go to heaven when you die. This is the gospel. Are you saved? Young people, are you saved? Are you living, pursuing that intent for which you are created? Do you love that? Do you desire that? Do you want that?

If not you need to bring your heart before the Lord. And, Christian, you have got to confess, we are pretty dull, aren't we? We are pretty dull and monotonous and we need to shake ourselves and delight in the delight of Jesus Christ.

Let's stand with our heads bowed, our eyes closed.

⁴¹ See Revelation 21:22.

⁴² Revelation 21:23.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ See Daniel 12:3.