

## THE TRIUMPH OF HOPE

Text: Romans 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION: We are hearing many notes of despair during these days. And there are good reasons for it. But the tragedy is that this spirit is creeping into the churches and the attitudes of Christians. Do you sometimes feel like the victim instead of the victor? Do you feel like the conquered instead of the conqueror? We have let the world oppress us, suppress us and depress us. We need to eliminate the negative and accenuate the positive. Paul is doing this in this passage.

We cannot escape the notes of assurance and victory in these verses. This passage of Scripture exhausts the fundamental ideas of assurance, hope and security for the believer.

There are two key words in the passage for my message. In verse 2, rejoice--same in verse 3--"glory" and in verse 11, "joy." They are all one word, which indicates not merely the inward joy of the heart, but the grateful and confident utterance of the lips. It always implies the expression of feeling. It denotes a shout of triumph. Here is Scriptural grounds for shouting.

The other word is "hope," found three times here. Hope is not to be understood in the degenerate sense that some use it. It does not mean to wish or blindly expect. Hope is the perserverence of faith. It denotes the assurance of salvation together with the joyful, peaceful, and restful confidence in which one waits for the consumation of his assurance. The idea of the security of the believer is exhausted in the word "hope." Hope is the link between the present and the future.

We give a shout of triumph because of the hope. The hope is the basis for the rejoicing. The assurance is the reason for the triumphant shout. A man that does not have assurance does not have the shout of victory. *not assurance of present sal, only cert*  
*assurance of future glory, etc.*  
The Christian has a basis for boasting which other men do not have. We ought to ever been shouting the sounds of victory because of the assurance that we have as Christians. The triumph of hope is the theme.

### I. WE TRIUMPH BECAUSE OF THE ASSURANCE OF FUTURE SALVATION.

(Verses 1,2)

This is what the phrase "hope of the glory of God" means. We have the assurance of the future, sharing of God's glory, being a partaker of the Divine splendor, sharing in the heavenly kingdom.

Man was destined from the first to share in this glory, but by sin we fell short of it. Romans 3:23--"are in need of the glory of God." This is man's greatest need. (What Lack I?) The worth of man is measured by his fulfilling the Divine purpose in his life. When man turns away from God, he lessens his worth. This is what Paul meant when he said that men were altogether "become unprofitable Because of sin, instead of glory, wrath--"no hope."

But here the Apostle identifies the object of our assurance as being that glory which we lost through sin. There is a new hopefulness, for that glory of God, of which we all come short of, is now shown to be attainable, and this knowledge gives a sense of rejoicing. How did this come about? How are we assured of our future glorification? There are three things in the text which precede this hope. It is like a ladder leading up to God's glory.

1. The ground on which this ladder rests is our justification by faith. This hope is a result of being justified through faith in Jesus Christ.

Justification is that act of grace whereby God absolves the believer from all guilt. It is God acquitting us of our sins, the very thing which robbed us of God's glory in the first place. It is God pronouncing us and treating us as righteous.

But justification is only the initial stage of God's dealings with man in his salvation. It is that which makes the rest possible.

2. God receives us into a state of favor--"Peace with God." This is peace that puts an end to war and enmity. Sin had not only caused us to fall short of God's glory, but it also put us in a place of hostility towards G d. Sin is man's declaration of war against God.

But peace is more than the cessation of hostility. It is a positive blessedness. It puts us in a position of being where we can receive the blessings and gifts of God.

3. The third rung in the ladder--access into this grace wherein we stand.

"Access" carries the idea of one being introduced into the private chamber of a Monarch. Jesus is the introducer; we are the introduced; God is the King and grace is the realm of the introduction. The introduction is not a brief nor occasional visit. It is a permanent possession. "Wherein we stand." We have an immovable and unshakeable establishment; permanent standing.

The word is also used of a landing-stage leading to a country with unlimited resources. It carries the idea of "free admission." We are like explorers fascinated with the great things which lie before us.

How does this result in assurance of the glory of God? Last July a boy gained a free admission to come and live with us permanently into our home. He has a permanent standing; free admission; access into our home. His permanence there gives him the right to share in everything that belongs to me. Now we have a permanent admission into God's grace and we will share in everything that God has.

A boy may be heir to a great fortune. He does not have it; has not realized it; but he is assured of it. We are not perfect; we often show very little of God's glory, but as His child, as His heir, we are assured of it.

This absolute assurance is enough to produce rejoicing and shouting. The shouts of triumph belong only to those who have the assurance of the glory of God. Our faith stands the test of the future.

## II. WE TRIUMPH IN PRESENT TRIBULATIONS. (Verses 3,4)

The sudden transition from "glory" to tribulations brings out the fulness of the believer's triumph. Paul has shown that our faith will stand the test of the future. Now he shows it will triumph over the present, however great the tribulations may be. "We give a shout of triumph even in our tribulations."

*Tribulation doesn't destroy our hope - enhances it*

Paul was a realist; he was not so absorbed in the glory of the future that he closed his eyes to the realities of the present. The remarkable thing is that the same note of victory heard with regard to the future glory is also heard with reference to our present tribulations. Paul gloried in these external hardships that give hindrance to this life. There is a sharp contrast between glory and affliction. This is not always our attitude. We pity instead of glory.

How is this possible? He justifies this boast by appealing to Christian knowledge. The Christian knows of the ministry which these tribulations perform. Tribulation initiates a process; it is the button that starts the machine of sanctification.

### 1. Produces patience.

*a sanctifying process*

This is not a passive waiting; it is perseverance and endurance to keep moving in the face of difficulty. It is to remain under the load of affliction without faltering or complaining and go right on no matter how heavy the load becomes.

Tribulation produces steadfastness as the wind makes the young tree to root deeper and more firmly. Tribulations harden the runner for the race and give the believer endurance.

2. Produces experience.

This is a tried condition--approvedness. It denotes strength that has been tested and proven itself, as a tried soldier. The word is used with regard to metals and coins and implies a testing of the genuineness and approval--the approval of God.

The metal is purified by the fire and character is seasoned by trials.

*Faith that will not stand test of tribulation is not genuine*

3. Results in Hope.

It increases our assurance. Tribulation does not weaken, but it strengthens our hope. It does not defeat the believer but gives an occasion for triumphing in hope. The experience of what God does for the Christian amid the afflictions of life, gives new and vigorous hope.

Ill- Spafford--two daughters drowned --"It is well with my Soul." The Christian is the only one who can sing while being burned at the stake.

III. WE TRIUMPH IN THE LOVE OF GOD. (Verses 5-11)

Beginning with this verse through verse 11, Paul shows a third time how hope will triumph. In 5:1,2,--hope will triumph because it is founded on the eternal grace of God; in 3,4--he gave tribulation as a second reason for the triumph of hope. In our present verse he says hope will triumph because it rests in the abundant love of God which gives full assurance of final salvation.

Hope cannot disappoint. The assurance of salvation will never shame the believer. Hope will never embarrass. The believer's hope rests not on anything in himself--not even on his loving God--but on God's loving us. It is a love which is unchanging and suffers no reverse. His love is the guarantee of our final salvation.

*"shed abroad"*  
He heightens our assurance by His generous love to us. He does not send His love as dew drops, nor in light showers of the rain, but like a flood His love pours in upon the thirsty soul. More love--more assurance.

The death of Christ is proof of God's love. If God ever stops loving--or if you discover that Jesus did not die for us--then you can begin to doubt. As long as God is love--we have assurance.

"I am persuaded that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus."