



## Sermon, Sunday August 13, 2023

# "A life of peace with God through Jesus Christ"

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-5** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we<sup>a</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

### **Introduction: What hopes do you live your life with?**

Today is the 11th Sunday after Pentecost. For us to live a happy life, we must be motivated, and have purpose and hope for our life. What kind of motivation, purpose, and hope are you living with? I dream of becoming a respected husband and father to my wife and children, and I hope to live as a pastor who can take good care of the brothers and sisters of the parish entrusted to me. Students will want good grades and a secure job after graduation. Sick people will wish to recover. Businesspeople want their business to thrive. In this way, everyone in the world lives with their own motives, purposes, and hopes.

And most people live their lives trying to achieve another goal after achieving what they want. We think that this kind of life is a human life that we can live until we die. The life we live while achieving our goals step by step in our daily life is precious.

However, we need to know what the fundamental limitations are of lives lived for these achievements. The reason we must realize the limits is because the standards of happiness that the Bible claims are different from those of the world. The world puts the standard of success on wealth, honor, and power, but the Bible sets the standard of success (happiness) on 'satisfaction of the relationship between man and God'. The reason the Bible makes this claim is that humans are creatures made in the image of God. Therefore, human beings cannot enjoy complete satisfaction with anything in this world.

These people do not agree with these biblical claims and try to fill their lives with external conditions such as money, fame, or power and are completely unaware of their spiritual longing.

The Bible teaches us again and again that only the satisfaction that comes from a deep relationship with God is true. Today's text also says this. In today's text, I hope we will deeply meditate on the Apostle Paul's hope for life and respond with 'Amen' to his confession.

### **Body: Apostle Paul's Hope**

Apostle Paul did not find joy in external conditions or achievement of goals like the people of the world. Paul referred to these worldly achievements as rubbish in Philippians chapter 3. Then, where did Apostle Paul's joy come from? As mentioned in today's text Romans 5:2, it comes from '**we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.**'

By the way, what does the '**glory of God**' mentioned in the above passage mean?



In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that Solomon's glory was less than one of the lilies of the field (Matthew 6:29). This does not mean that Solomon has partial glory, but that man cannot enjoy any glory. How do you understand the “**glory of God**” mentioned by the Apostle Paul? For Paul, the “**glory of God**” is the “**eternal life**” that all creatures in this world have gained through the resurrection of Jesus. All Christians will someday participate in this eternal life.

The Apostle Paul was able to rejoice because he believed and was convinced of this fact. As Christians, we should be able to rejoice if we believe and are sure that we will someday participate in eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus.

By the way, how is our present life? There are many elements in our lives that are not worthy of God's glory or eternal life. No matter how well we live a life of faith, we cannot avoid suffering. Christians who live in this world rejoice with the hope of participating in the glory of God, but at the same time they must live with various sufferings.

In fact the Apostle Paul makes an amazing confession about the suffering we go through in our lives. **Romans 5:3-4 says, “And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”**

If, like Paul's confession in this passage, even the suffering in our lives moves toward hope, then this Christian life is overcoming suffering. This confession of Paul is not well received by those who are in extreme difficulties right now. Also, if we comfort those who are in trouble with this word, they will likely feel resentment rather than comfort.

As such, the problem of suffering experienced in human life is not an easy one. However, as we read in today's text, if we keep the fact that we participate in the glory of God through the power of Jesus' resurrection, the suffering of reality will lead to hope.

In fact, the reason why we do not earnestly think about ‘**the glory of God**’ in our daily lives is because, paradoxically, there is no suffering. If the wealth, honor, and power we enjoy gives us satisfaction in our lives, we will not desperately worry about the eternal life we will enjoy through ‘**the glory of God (the resurrection of Jesus)**’. However, if we experience suffering so severe that we have no choice but to give up everything in this world, the hope of participating in ‘**the glory of God**’ will be stronger.

However, we don't have to worry about suffering we haven't experienced yet. If our lives do not have serious suffering, we can believe that it is the grace that the Lord gives us, and we must live happily. On the contrary, if sufferings happen, please take it as an opportunity to focus more on ‘**God's glory**’. If we do not give up our faith in the eternal life that the Lord has given us through the resurrection, the Lord will lead our lives in a good way.

## **Conclusion: Christians who live with the hope of participating in the glory of God**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Now let's summarize today's message. How do we know that the Lord is helping us in our struggles with the realities of life?

The Apostle Paul says in **Romans 5:5, “And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”**

According to this verse, it says that the Holy Spirit has poured out “**the love of God**” into our hearts. Here, ‘**God's love**’ is His help. The meaning of these words is not that we have been miraculously healed or made rich, but that ‘**God's love**’ itself is proof that God helps us. In other words, if ‘**God's love**’ fills our hearts, we have nothing to worry about in any suffering or situation. Do you experience this love of God in your life? How can we know when God's love has been poured into our hearts?



In today's text, **Romans 5:1**, it says that we have "**peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**" If we are at peace with God, we are loved by God. This peace with God is possible through our faith in Jesus Christ. In the end, God's love depends on the fact that we believe in Jesus.

Those who possess this kind of faith live in joy with the hope that they will participate in God's glory with God's help even in a painful life. What hope do we live by? Hope to participate in 'the glory of God' is the answer. This hope will lead us to joy that can overcome even suffering. Also, this hope will never disappoint us. I hope all of us live by this faith.

