

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: UNashamed

Title: Rejoice

Speaker: Steve Berg

Text: Romans 5

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Introduction

Paul's letter to the Romans is a description of the power of God released into the world of unrighteous people. It is about the Good News – God has found a way, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, to give unrighteous people right standing with God. In Romans 5, Paul adds up the reasons that we will rejoice.

Discussion

1. Romans 5:1-2 — Rejoice in your right standing because of Christ

- Christians rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. What is this hope of the glory of God? What are the outcomes of this declared in these verses? If someone said to you, "I see no benefit to believing in Christ," how could respond to this from these verses?

2. Romans 5:3-10 — Rejoice in your growing character like Christ

- Christians rejoice their sufferings. Thinking about the suffering of Christ, how is suffering a place to rejoice? What is the connection between the qualities of suffering?
- Why will the believers' hope never be disappointed?
- What is the central point that Paul is making in 5:6-8? What assurance do we have from 5:9-10?

3. Romans 5:11-21 — Rejoice in your eternal life with Christ

- How is it different to say, "I sometimes commit sins," from saying, "I am a sinner"? Why is the latter so much deeper and more serious? In conversations with others, how do you acknowledge your sinfulness? Do others understand your explanations? How do they respond?
- Do you find it hard to believe that Jesus' one act of obedience can change you from a sinner to a righteous saint? Why would your pride prefer this transformation to be done in some other way? How can you rehearse your identity in Christ?
- Why does Paul emphasize the "free gift" of justification five times in three verses? Why is it so important to understand that justification/salvation is a "free gift?" How should this concept impact the way you present the gospel?