

Romans 5

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 5.

B. Salvation is the best God has for you, and it can be found in Romans 5-8.

II. The mark of victorious life.

A. Heaven is cause for rejoicing.

B. With salvation, the question of hell is forever settled—we have been justified by grace.

C. It is only when the believer learns to rejoice in suffering that his Christianity begins to make sense and that his witness becomes effective.

1. This is the normal expectation for every Christian.

2. God wants us to know that suffering is part of the process by which He makes us what we deeply want to be.

a. Tribulation makes patience, for instance.

b. Suffering is a sign of God's love.

III. Jesus' death and resurrection cause us to rejoice.

A. His death causes us to rejoice in the future, while His resurrection causes us to rejoice in the present.

B. His death saves us from the judgment of God.

C. His life saves us from the wrath of God. The wrath of God is the silent destruction of the soul and body that occurs when man is disobedient to the will of God. (Romans 1)

IV. God has made full provision to save us from our sinful attitudes and ways by Jesus' imparted life in a person.

A. It is fully possible to do all that Jesus asks in light of this.

B. Most of Christian life is being lived without proper awareness of the power available.

C. The life story of every man is the history of the world—there is futility in the world.

D. The old life from Adam produces futility and restlessness and manifests itself in sinful attitudes. This is the natural inheritance from Adam.

E. The new Adam, Jesus, provides new life. It comes just as natural as the other life. We do not try to be good—we trust in Christ's provision.

F. The law is futile to help the believer be good. Rules worsen the condition because the law increases sin.

Application questions:

1. Why is suffering integral to the Christian life?

2. What are some helps to remember for rejoicing when a person is suffering?

3. Why is discipline never an adequate solution for doing good? Explain.
