

Rejoicing in Hope

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 5:1-2.

B. Romans is about the good news of Jesus--God has found a way to justify the ungodly.

C. The ungodly qualifies for God's justification because only the ungodly need to be justified.

II. The results of justification by faith.

A. Believers rejoice in their spiritual position.

1. The Christian is justified by faith.

2. Justification by faith is demonstrated in the person of Abraham--it is becoming near to God.

3. Ways to test whether one is justified by faith.

a. One has peace with God.

1) One loses his fear of God.

2) One loses his fear of death.

3) One has an answer to the attacks of doubt and fear the devil brings into his life.

4) One has an answer to the accusations of his own conscience when he sins.

5) One has merit through Jesus only.

b. One has gained a constant supply through his access to the God of all grace. This means that there is continual acceptance before God.

c. One has hope in the glory of God.

1) This hope speaks of a ringing certainty based on the words of Jesus Himself.

2) This hope is constant assurance.

B. Believers rejoice in sufferings.

C. Believers rejoice in God.

Application questions:

1. What does peace look like?

2. Why is peace a good measure of whether one has received justification?

3. Who has been a model of hope for you? How has this encouraged you when you have faced your own challenges?
