

## Introduction

One of the many things that I appreciate about preaching through books of the Bible is that we can preach the whole counsel of God. There are so many important principles that need to be taught, and the timing of those teachings is important. Sometimes, God prepares us in advance so that we know what to do when situations arise. Sometimes, God teaches us about things that are currently going on in our lives, and how to deal with them. Sometimes, God teaches us about things in our past, so that we can learn from them, be healed from them and find closure. In 1998, I had Mike Haley, a minister from Oklahoma, preach at our church. He said he was preaching to three groups of people, those who had just gone through a storm, those who were going through a storm, or those about to enter a storm. Mike was going through a storm in his own life. He died of cancer a couple of weeks after preaching at our church. I believe that our messages are like Mike's opening, they pertain to what we have gone through, what we are going through, and what we will face in the future.

Having said that, I want to put some of you at ease about the message today. Our message is about exulting or rejoicing in God. Paul gives three reasons to exult in God. First, we exult in God in hope of the glory of God. Second, we exult in God in our tribulations. Third, we exult in God for our reconciliation. It may be that you are going through a trial or tribulation right now. You want to hear a word of comfort and compassion. You really don't want someone telling you to rejoice in your trial. The word of God clearly teaches us to rejoice in our tribulations, so this may be a word for your present situation. However, the Bible also says to weep with those who weep. When Jesus went to Mary and Martha's house after Lazarus had died, he saw them weeping, and He wept. Even though He knew that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, He wept with them. Jesus was full of compassion. He did not tell them to rejoice. It was not the time to tell them to rejoice; it was a time to weep with them. So, if you are going through a trial in your life, this message is not meant to bring condemnation to you. It is not meant to be lacking in sensitivity or compassion. It is just another important principle that God wants us to live by. We are to be a people who exult in hope of His glory. We are to be a people who rejoice in our trials, and we are to be a people who rejoice in our reconciliation. Let's read our text.

(Rom 5:1-11) "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, {2} through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we **exult** in hope of the glory of God. {3} And **not only this**, but we also **exult** in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; {4} and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; {5} and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. {6} For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. {9} Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. {10} For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been **reconciled**, we shall be saved by His life. {11} **And not only this**, but we also **exult** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **reconciliation**."

## Three Reasons to Exult in God

1. We exult in hope of the glory of God
2. We exult in our tribulations.
3. We exult in our reconciliation

## 1. We exult in hope of the glory of God (Rom 5:1-2)

The first reason for you and I to exult in God is to exult in the hope of the glory of God. The word exult means to glory, boast, rejoice, or exult. We are to exult in the hope of the glory of God. Because we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We will stand before God because of His grace and mercy. We are to exult in hope of the glory of God because God has declared us innocent and righteous. We shall one day stand before Him in all His glory. That is our hope, that is why we exult in the hope of His glory.

(Rom 5:1-2) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, {2} through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we **exult** in hope of the glory of God.”

Karen and I visited a church a number of years ago. The church was growing and had several morning services to accommodate everyone. Everything was very professional. There were parking lot attendants who directed you, and then greeted you. They also served as the first barrier in their security plan. There were greeters at the door. There were people at the help desk to give more information. There were latte machines outside the auditorium, and you were welcome to bring your latte into the service. There were greeters and ushers at the doors to the auditorium. The worship team was professional in all respects. They had outstanding musicians and vocalists, and everything was flawless. They had fog going so that the auditorium was filled with fog. It was to simulate the cloud that filled the temple when Solomon dedicated it. As the worship began, we could not help but notice the people directly in front of us. They had their lattes in hand and were casually enjoying the entertainment. They were not engaged in worship; they were just enjoying their Sunday morning.

Our first reason to exult God is for the hope of the glory of God. I don't believe that we really grasp the glory of God. I believe that Isaiah got a glimpse of the glory of God in Isaiah 6. He saw the seraphim calling out, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His **glory**.” He also saw the holiness of God and his own sinfulness, and he declared, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

(Is 6:1-5) “In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. {2} Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. {3} And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." {4} And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. {5} Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

I believe that Moses and Joshua saw the glory of God. Moses spent forty days on the mountain in the presence of the Lord. When Moses met with the Lord in the tent of meeting, his face shone. Young Joshua did not want to leave the tent and stayed behind after Moses had left. I think they had a glimpse of God's glory.

(Ex 33:9-11) “Whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent; and the LORD would speak with Moses. {10} When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would arise and

worship, each at the entrance of his tent. {11} Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.”

I believe that David had a glimpse of God’s glory. In Psalm 24, David asked, “who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.” I believe that David got a glimpse of the King of glory. In Psalm 27:4, David wrote a request to God, “One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.” When David brought the ark back to Israel, he danced and exulted before the Lord. He did not care that Michal thought that he was making a fool of himself; he was simply rejoicing before the Lord. I believe David had a glimpse of that glory.

(Ps 24:10) “Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.”

(Ps 27:4) “One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple.”

(2 Sam 6:12b-15) “...David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness. {13} And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. {14} And David was dancing before the LORD with all *his* might, and David was wearing a linen ephod.”

(2 Sam 6:20-22) “But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!" {21} So David said to Michal, "*It was* before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; **therefore I will celebrate before the LORD.** {22} "I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.”

I believe that Solomon and the priests got a glimpse of the glory of the Lord when they brought the ark into the temple that Solomon had built. “The cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.” Can you imagine the glory of the Lord like a cloud, and the presence of God so strong that we cannot stand?

(1 Kings 8:10-11) “It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD, {11} so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.”

I don’t think Isaiah was sipping lattes in his vision. I don’t think the seraphim were sipping lattes. I don’t think David wanted to spend time in the temple to drink lattes. I don’t think that Moses or Solomon had fog machines; they had the real thing, the glory of God. I think that most of us have a hard time understanding and grasping what Paul said. We need to exult in the hope of the glory of God. I believe our worship would take on a far different significance if we exulting in the glory of God. I think pastors would stop preaching that worship is meant to prepare our hearts for the message. We worship God because He is worthy of our praise. He is

the King of glory and we will one day stand in His glory. What will we be doing? We will be worshiping and falling down before Him.

Before we go to the second reason to exult, I want to read a passage from Revelations 5. John had a vision of what was taking place in the presence of God.

(Rev 5:11-14) "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, {12} saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." {13} And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." {14} And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped."

Notice that the angels, living creatures, elders, and others were singing that the Lamb is worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and **GLORY** and blessing. Notice that every created thing in heaven and on the earth and under the earth were saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and **GLORY** and dominion forever and ever." We will one day be part of that scene, worshiping and giving glory to God. We are to exult in the hope of God's glory.

## 2. We exult in our tribulations (Rom 5:3-4)

The second reason to exult in God is because of the trials and tribulations that we go through. Paul continues by saying, "And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations. Paul then goes on to tell us why we should exult in our tribulations. Our tribulations bring about perseverance. Second, they bring about proven character. Third, they bring about hope.

(Rom 5:3-4) "And **not only this**, but we also **exult** in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; {4} and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;"

I don't think that Jesus rejoiced in the fact that He was suffering. Before His arrest and crucifixion, He asked the Father that the cup be removed from Him if possible. He was not looking forward to suffering, and I don't think anyone looks forward to suffering. But, Jesus had reason for rejoicing in His suffering. Notice what God tells us in Hebrews 12. We are to fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." You and I are to look at the example set by Jesus. He despised the shame and suffering, but He was full of joy. He rejoiced for two reasons. First, Jesus knew that He had come to take away the sins of the world. He rejoiced to see our sins forgiven and to declare us righteous. He rejoiced in reconciling us to God. Second, Jesus rejoiced because He was going back to the Father. He was going to be seated at the right hand of the Father. There were reasons for Jesus to rejoice in His suffering, and there are reasons for us to rejoice also in our suffering. Paul gives three reasons why to exult in God in our tribulations. They bring about perseverance, proven character and hope.

(Heb 12:2-3) “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. {3} For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

If you are suffering right now, don't rejoice in the fact that you are suffering. Rejoice in the fact that God will use this in your life to bring about perseverance, proven character, and hope. As I look back on my Christian life, I went through seven pretty tough years in Florida. I worked for an unprincipled man whose God was greed. I would get battered and beat up six days a week, and then get built up on Sunday, my only day off. Then, it would start all over again. As a result of those years of suffering, I grew a lot. One pastor remarked that my life was being transformed before his very eyes. I was growing in wisdom, knowledge, and in my character. I don't recall rejoicing very much at the time, but I do recognize the work that God did in my life in that chapter.

In 2014, the oil and gas industry went into a downturn. I saw the downturn coming and immediately took a 20% pay cut, and gave up my bonus for the year to help our company withstand the storm I saw coming. Our board of directors did not want me to do this, but Tom Swenson told them that they needed to listen to me. Over the next couple of years, I had five pay cuts. Karen and I lived on savings until our company sold in 2020. These were trying and difficult years for me, our company, and our industry. Many companies in our industry went out of business, and many others went through bankruptcy, some more than one bankruptcy. My attitude was not one of grumbling or complaining, but was joyful. I rejoiced that God was taking care of me in the midst of these trials. I also rejoiced in the fact that God was giving me more perseverance. I prayed for God to give me more perseverance and He did. God wants you and I to exult in our trials, knowing that He will use these things in our lives to transform us into His image and give us more perseverance. In 2 Peter 1:5-8, we are exhorted to apply all diligence in our faith. We must be diligent in our faith, particularly in our trials and tribulations. We are to supply moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness, and love. Peter ended by saying if these qualities are ours and increasing we would be neither useless nor unfruitful. The positive way to say that is that if these qualities are ours and increasing we will be fruitful and useful. I love to be useful and fruitful, so these qualities are very important to me. Notice that perseverance is one of these qualities. During the downturn in the oil and gas industry, I prayed for more perseverance so that I could be more useful and fruitful. I can rejoice in those things.

(2 Pet 1:5-8) “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, {6} and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, {7} and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. {8} For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

James, the half-brother of Jesus and the leader of the church in Jerusalem, wrote that we should consider it all joy when we encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces endurance. The word for endurance is hupomone (Strong's G5281), which means to remain under. It is the same Greek word that is used in Romans 5 that is translated as perseverance. In both passages, God uses these trials in our lives to produce proven character. We can rejoice in the fact that God will use these times of our life to mature us, and to make us more like Him.

(James 1:2-4) “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. {4} And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

In addition to proven character and perseverance, we exult in God because they bring about hope. Paul goes on to say that “hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

(Rom 5:5) “and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

In 1993 I was playing fairly well and on the sixth and final round of the PGA Tour Qualifying School I was about twelve or thirteen under par going into the last hole of the tournament. They did not have score boards so nobody knew where they stood. I thought I needed to birdie the last hole to earn my card for the next year. My game plan was to hit a 2-iron off the tee and a mid-iron to the green, two-putt and take a par every day. However, since I thought I needed to make a birdie, hitting a driver and a short iron made more sense. Since I was playing pretty well, I took out my driver and played more aggressively. There was water down the right side, but it was right of a long fairway bunker. Most of the time the sand in the bunker would stop balls from going in the water. My tee shot hit left of the bunker and kicked straight right all the way across the bunker and rolled into the edge of the water. To make a long story short, I made a triple bogey on the hole, only to find out that a par, bogey, or double-bogey would have earned me my card. I was pretty disappointed as I walked from the scoring area to my car. As I walked the Holy Spirit gave me a song. He gave me a melody for Romans 15:13. “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” God filled me with a supernatural joy in that instant and I abounded in hope. As I returned to the scoring area the reporter from Sports Illustrated wanted to ask me some questions. He could not believe my attitude, and he ended up doing a story on my family and I. During the next year God did some amazing things in our lives on the Nike Tour, and He used us mightily. It all came about because of the joy and hope that the Holy Spirit gave me in the midst of my trial.

(Rom 15:13) “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Paul said that hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. In these difficult times where you may be struggling to have joy, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with joy, hope, and peace. God would love to do that in your life.

### **3. We exult in our reconciliation (Rom 5:6-11)**

We exult in the hope of God’s glory; we exult in our tribulations, and we exult in God for our reconciliation. In verses eleven, Paul again uses the phrase, “And not only this, but we also exult in God...” Paul is introducing the third reason that we exult in God.

(Rom 5:11) “**And not only** this, but we also **exult** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the **reconciliation.**”

In verses ten and eleven, reconciled or reconciliation is used three times, which is a major indication of what the paragraph is about. In verse ten, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, which is the means of our reconciliation; Christ reconciled us to God. It was not something that we did; it was the work of Christ. Second, Paul gives us the result of our reconciliation: we will be saved. In verse eleven, Paul gives us the application for our lives: we are to exult in God.

(Rom 5:10-11) “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. {11} And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Let’s look at this word, reconciliation, for just a minute. The KJV, ESV, NIV, and NASB all use reconcile, which means to re-establish a relationship, or to restore to friendship or harmony. (The Greek word is *katallasso* (Strong’s G2644), which means to mutually change.) Christ is the one that has restored our relationship with God, and brought us into harmony with God. We are to exult in God for our reconciliation.

Let’s go back to the beginning of Romans 5. Paul wrote that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because we have been reconciled to God, we are in harmony or in peace with God. Our sins which separated us have been dealt with and paid for. There is no longer anything that can separate us from God.

(Rom 5:1) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Notice what Jesus did to reconcile us. In verse six, we find that “while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” We were dead in our sins and trespasses; we were helpless. Christ died for us, the ungodly. Why did Jesus do this? He did this to demonstrate His love toward us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. We have been justified and declared innocent and righteous by His blood, and we are now saved from the wrath of God. That is how Christ reconciled us to God. We have a whole lot to be grateful for, and we should exult in God for our reconciliation.

(Rom 5:6-9) “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. {8} But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. {9} Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

When I came to Christ, my main concern was whether God was real. I never questioned the issue about being a sinner. I knew that I was a sinner. When God showed me His love and that He is real, I received Christ as my Savior. I was aware of my sins and that Jesus died for my sins, but I don’t think I really understood or appreciated what Jesus did to reconcile me to Himself. Tim Hughes wrote a popular song, “Here I Am To Worship,” and one of the choruses says, “I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.” Over the years I have grown in my appreciation of what it cost Jesus to see my sins upon that cross. I want us to take a minute to sing that song. Let us exult in God. Let us exult in God in hope of His glory. Let us exult in God for the tribulations that we go through that are producing proven character, perseverance, and hope. Let us exult in God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

Song: Here I Am To Worship

**Conclusion and Applications** (2 Cor 5:18-20)

I want to close with 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. Paul wrote that God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed us to the word of reconciliation. God has given you and I the privilege of being His ambassadors. We represent the kingdom of heaven and our part in the reconciliation is to be witnesses or communicators. The work of reconciliation was done by Christ, but it must be received by people. In order for people to be reconciled to Christ, they have to know what Christ has done. They need to know the good news of the kingdom, which is the part that God has given to us. We are to be his ambassadors, sharing the message of reconciliation with the world. If the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you about this, I ask you to pray along with me right now.

(2 Cor 5:18-19) “Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, {19} namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

*Father God, thank You for reconciling me to Yourself through Jesus Christ. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and justifying me. Thank You for committing to me the word of reconciliation and making me one of Your ambassadors. Help me to properly represent You to the people around me. Lord, I accept this role as an ambassador. Lord, I ask You to help me be a great ambassador, and to bless and confirm my work as an ambassador. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

In verse twenty, Paul makes an appeal to those in Corinth, “we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” There may be someone here this morning that has heard about Christ, but who has never received Christ. We have to receive this reconciliation. We must receive Christ as our Lord and Savior so that we can be reconciled. I beg you on behalf of Christ this morning, “Be reconciled to God.” If you would like to be reconciled to God this morning, pray with me this morning.

(2 Cor 5:20) “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

*Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to die for my sins and reconcile me to You. Jesus, I thank You for demonstrating God's love to me and paying the debt for all my sins. I want to be reconciled to You today. I believe that You came and died for my sins, and were raised from the dead. I ask You to come into my life and forgive me of my sins. I ask You to seal me with Your Holy Spirit, I submit my life to you and promise to follow You. I ask You to help me be a good ambassador for You. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Q&A

**Introduction** (Rom 5:1-11)

- 1. We exult in hope of the glory of God** (Rom 5:1-2, Is 6:1-5, Ex 33:9-11, Ps 24:10, 27:4, 2 Sam 6:12-15, 6:20-22, 1 Kings 8:10-11, Rev 5:11-14)
- 2. We exult in our tribulations** (Rom 5:3-5, Heb 12:2-3, 2 Peter 1:5-8, James 1:2-4, Rom 15:13)
- 3. We exult in our reconciliation** (Rom 5:6-11, Rom 5:1)

**Conclusion and Applications** (2 Cor 5:18-20)