

# Rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God

Romans 5:2b

11/30/14

## REVIEW

In Romans 1 we read the history of man's descent in sin; in Romans 2 we see that sinfulness extends to all people; in Romans 3 we learn that no people can deliver themselves from their sin; and in Romans 4 we see that the best of men were saved solely by faith in the Savior. Now in Romans 5:1 we are assured that faith in Christ delivers us from condemnation, and Romans 5:2 assures us of access to blessings. Today we will look at the last portion of that verse, which adds, “**and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**”

The Scriptures list many hopes:

"Hope of the gospel" -- Colossians 1:23

"Hope of salvation" -- I Thessalonians 5:8

"Hope of His calling" -- Ephesians 1:18

"Hope of righteousness" -- Galatians 5:5

"Hope of eternal life" -- Titus 1:2

"Hope and resurrection of the dead" -- Acts 23:6

And now: "Hope of the glory of God" -- Romans 5:2

## I. WHAT GLORY IS

**A. The word** – Latin: *gloria* → “brightness, shining, magnificence, splendor, brilliance.”

1. In the natural world, there are causes for things being bright. For example, lightning occurs due to an electrostatic discharge at 54,000 degrees F.
2. In the spirit world, there are also causes for brightness: the attributes of God. Glory is the sum total of who God is expressed in an incomprehensible explosion of brilliant light.

## II. WHAT, CORRESPONDINGLY, GLORIFYING IS

**A. Literally, it is giving due credit for the glory some thing or person has.**

**B. Glory can be ascribed to natural beauty.**

1. The devil took Jesus up into an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world, “and the glory of them.” (Matt. 4:8)
2. “There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.” (I Cor. 15:41)

**C. Glory can be ascribed to people.**

1. Kings can have glory, for Jesus spoke of Solomon in all his glory (Matt. 6:29).
2. Jesus said hypocrites give money “that they may have glory of men.” (Matt. 6:2)

**D. Our calling is to ascribe glory to God.**

### **III. THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT GOD'S GLORY.**

#### **A. God dwells in the light of His glory now.**

1. “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.” (I Tim. 6:16)
2. God covers himself with light as with a garment. (Ps. 104:2)
3. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (I John 1:5)
4. Jesus' face shines now as “the sun in its strength.” (Rev. 1:16)

#### **B. God's glory has appeared on earth numerous times. For example:**

1. In the tabernacle in the wilderness – Ex. 40:34-35
2. Then in the temple in Jerusalem – I Kings 8:10-11
3. Now it is in Christians, His new temples – I Cor. 6:19

#### **C. Jesus dwelled in this glory “before the world was.” (John 17:5)**

1. His glory was shrouded while on earth except during His transfiguration, when “his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.” (Matt. 17:2) Of that time, John wrote, “and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Jn 1:14)
2. “Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father.” (Rom. 6:4)
3. In His Second Coming He returns “in a cloud with power and great glory.” (Luke 21:27)

### **IV. GOD EXPECTS ALL THAT HE HAS CREATED TO GIVE HIM GLORY.**

**A. Hence the warning:** “Give Him the glory, for the hour of His judgment is come.” (Rev. 14:6-7)

**B. Nature gives Him glory.** See Psalm 19:1-4, Psalm 98:7-9.

**C. It's *man* who doesn't do his job.** Note Rom. 3:23. Review Romans 1:20-23.

### **V. WHAT DOES MAN GLORIFYING GOD LOOK LIKE?**

**A. It involves honoring God for who He is and what He has done.**

**B. So, the starting point is knowledge of God.**

### **VI. WHO GOD IS**

**A. He is a spirit.** He is immaterial, incorporeal, and invisible.

**B. He is a person.** Actually, 3 persons. He has self-consciousness and self-determination. He loves, enjoys, desires, is grieved, etc.

**C. He is self-existent.** His existence is not dependent upon anything outside of Himself. Thomas Aquinas: “He is the first cause; himself uncaused.”

**D. He is immense.** He is infinite in relation to space; He fills the universe and is outside it.

**E. He is eternal.** Having no cause for His existence, He has existed and will exist forever.

**F. He has non-moral attributes.**

1. Omnipresence. God is present everywhere at once.
2. Omniscience. God knows everything eternally, simultaneously, exhaustively, and truly.
3. Omnipotence. God has all power and can do anything He wills.
4. Immutability. God is unchangeable in His essence, attributes, consciousness, and will.

**G. He has moral attributes.**

1. Holiness. This is the foremost attribute. God is absolutely separate from all moral evil.
2. Righteousness and Justice. God is perfect in His moral government over all His creatures.
3. Goodness. By this word is meant God's love, benevolence, mercy, and grace.
4. Truth. God's revelations of all things in the Scriptures are perfectly accurate and utterly reliable.

How remarkable and unfathomable is our God! Truly we must say with Paul: “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.” (Romans 11:33-36) But this is the very comment to which the world would NOT say “Amen.” The world *refuses* to give Him glory, we have seen in this Epistle to the Romans.

But, to review, Christians are called to “rejoice in hope of the glory of God”! Given what we now know about this process, what are the elements of rejoicing in hope of the glory of God? Here are four . . .

**Hoping in the glory of God involves:**

1. **Longing to see God's glory** – Ps. 63:1-2; Ex. 33:18 – “... I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.”
2. **Being changed by God's glory** – Contrast Rom. 1:23 with II Cor. 3:18.
3. **Reflecting God's glory** – Ex. 34:28-30, Mark 9:3, Ps. 4:6-7, Eph. 1:6, 12, 14, Matt. 5:16.
4. **Anticipating the universal showing of God's glory** – “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” (Hab. 2:14) See also: Isa. 66:18, Titus 2:13.

## DISCUSSION

1. Think on Ps. 63:1-2, and list your insights and applications.
2. Think on II Cor. 3:18, and list your insights and applications.
3. How could/do you reflect God's glory? How could/does the church?
4. How should/does your anticipation of Hab. 2:14 affect the way you live?

