

Theme: Christ has come that we might experience true, full life, now and eternally.

I. Intro - The Advent of Life

- A. We have been looking at hope, peace, love, and joy
- B. These are key parts of true, real life and blessing
- C. The Advent of Jesus brought these to us - now and forever (Romans 5:1-5)

II. True, Full Life From the Triune God

- A. True life is the overflow of the life of the Trinity
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:1–5

- 1. God (the Father), Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit
- 2. Salvation is the work of the Trinity
 - a. The Father loved us and chose us from eternity
 - b. The Son loved us and came to save us
 - c. The Spirit loved us and applied the plan of the Father and the work of the Son to us
- 3. Life is the overflow of the life of the Trinity
 - a. Father, Son, and Spirit eternally lived, loved, and enjoyed relationship with one another

- b. Creation is the overflow of this vibrant, joyful life
 - c. Humanity is created in the image of this Triune community and invited into living, joyous relationship of the Father, Son, and Spirit.
 - d. The Fall is our rejection of the invitation to join the Trinitarian life and relationship, which is why it led to such sorrow, pain, and alienation.
 - e. Redemption is not a new plan, but a restoration of God's invitation for us to join the life and joy of the Trinity.
 - f. Christ has come that we might have true life!
- B. Christ came so that we might have full life
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:1–5

- 1. Note the result of the coming of Christ: hope, peace, love, and joy!
- 2. Jesus did not come so that we might experience a half-way restoration, but rather that we might have full restoration and full, abundant life!
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10
 - a. Jesus came so that we might have LIFE!

- b. Jesus came so that we might have FULL LIFE!
- c. He has come so that our lives may be full of abundant hope, peace, love, and joy!

III. True, Full Life - Now and Eternally

- A. Jesus came that we might have true, full life eternally
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1–2
 - 1. Jesus came that we might have eternal life
 - 2. This is the 'hope of the glory of God' (v2)
 - 3. Because Jesus has come, we may live eternally with God, seeing Him and experiencing Him
 - 4. This is the Gospel of life, and it simply requires that we come by faith, trusting in God's grace alone.
 - 5. I urge you to receive the grace of God that gives eternal life!
- B. We must test because there are many false prophets
And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:2–5
 - 1. We not only rejoice in the hope of eternal life, but we even rejoice NOW.
 - 2. Because of the work of Christ we can even have joy now in the midst of suffering.

- 3. Rather than suffering producing despair, because Christ has come we can have joy even in suffering.
- 4. Rather than suffering destroying us, it can makes us stronger, producing character in our lives.
- 5. Rather than suffering making us hopeless, it can stir up deeper hope in our hearts as we long and look for the eternal Day where there is no suffering, no sickness, no sin, no death!
- 6. But to walk in this we must receive from the Holy Spirit each day as He pours God's love into our hearts.
- 7. Believer, I encourage you this Christmas season to daily come before God and let the Spirit work hope, peace, love, and joy into your life!
- 8. Don't let circumstances swallow up your hope, peace, love, and joy; let the Spirit's work swallow up your circumstances!

IV. Applying the Word - Receiving and Passing On the Light of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy!

- A. The hope, peace, love and joy of God are ours in Christ!
 - 1. These are ours - now and eternally
 - 2. Apart from hope, peace, love, and joy, all is darkness, despair, and conflict.
 - 3. The Spirit wants to work in us each days so that we can receive the light of hope, peace, love, and joy and pass them on to others.
 - 4. Receive them fresh tonight and then pass them on!
- B. Silent night candle lighting

The Advent of Life In Christ

Romans 5:1-5

December 24, 2020

Silent Night/ Christmas Candle lighting

Special Christmas blessing

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, Jesus; hope; peace and comfort;
love; joy

May the hope, peace, love, and joy of God and His Kingdom, which are yours in Jesus Christ, fill your hearts and your homes throughout this season, and may God spread them through You to this hurting world. Go forth blessed - and be a blessing!

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:1–5