



# Advent Hope

Romans 5:1-5  
Week of November 28, 2021

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Before Connect Group

- Romans 5:1-5
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

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*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

*Romans 5:1-5, ESV*

A large, faint, light-colored illustration of a Christmas tree and wreath is centered in the background of the page. The tree is made of gold spirals and has a gold star on top. The wreath is made of green leaves and red berries.

# Sermon Notes

*This is the opening of the door to adoration, knowing that though we were against Him, the grace of God is super abounding.*

Advent simply means “coming.” The next four weeks we are taking a break from our study in Ephesians and we are going to labor toward preparing our hearts for the “coming” of Christ. This Advent we want to focus on adoration. To “adore” Christ means to celebrate Him, to center our celebration on the good news of the coming of Jesus Christ, to elevate our celebration on the coming of Jesus Christ, and to prioritize Him as the central focus of our world rather than the consumeristic mindset available in our culture. This means that Means to make sure that nothing takes any time away from Him. Rather, make more time for growing in relationship with Him. Finally, we want to experience a deep love for Him, not just an intellectual discussion but a longing of the soul for relationship with our Savior.

We have come to realize that “knowing” Christ is so much more than simply acknowledging him. You must understand the intimacy of the Gospel before you can be appropriately motivated to imitate God. *Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.* I cannot over emphasize how precious this prayer is over us this season. This is truly a prayer of adoration. A prayer that longs for us to move well beyond acknowledging Christ, but come to a place of worshiping Him. There are some in here this morning who have yet to come to adore Christ. You may respect him greatly. You may even call him your savior, but you have yet to experience adoration.

## Hope

- *Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*
- As we come to the topics of our Advent this Christmas season, we begin with “hope”.
- Many might say that Romans is not usually the text to which we would turn for the narrative of the Birth of Jesus. Rather, it seems that the text is specifically dealing with the Cross of Christ.
- The Birth of Jesus and the Death, burial, and resurrection are all of one story.
- We cannot fully adore and celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas without the Cross in view. If we do not teach the Victory of Easter in the same breath as our birthday song at Christmas, we will drift from the Glory and weight of this season.

## Rejoice In Hope of the Glory of God

### The Glory of God in the birth of Jesus Christ.

- He is the fulfilment of all prophetic hope.
- *Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*
- As all the people looked for the future hope, they were looking for the Christ. Every moment in history hinges on this coming of Jesus Christ into the world.
- He is the true revelation and relationship of God with man.
- *Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

### The Glory of God in the Gift of Grace Through Faith

- Romans 5:2
- It was not just that God sent His son to earth, but it was that He sent His son to fulfill the greatest act of love.
- The gift of grace, redemption, and forgiveness had been given to us.
- During Advent, we must keep the fullness of the cross and the victory of the resurrection in view as we discuss the birth of Jesus Christ.
- *Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- We were weak, sinful, with an inability to pursue righteousness on our own. This is the opening of the door to adoration, knowing that though we were against Him, the grace of God is super abounding.
- We take our sin and take our unrightful position of standing before God and approach Him in the confidence of knowing that it was He who drew us to Him first.
- God has done more for us than we could even imagine or understand the depths of His love for us.

### The Glory of God in Hope That Overwhelms Fear and Suffering

- It is our sufferings that most notably point us back to the hope we have in Christ.
- We rejoice in our sufferings.
- The work Christ has done has come to reign over even our suffering. Whatever we may face in our sufferings is nothing compared to the glory of God that overwhelms fear and suffering.
- Our suffering most notably points us back to the glory of Christ and helps set the foundation for the adoration of Jesus Christ.
- Because this baby boy was born, everything that comes to us in this life has as its end, "Hope"!
- *Romans 5:15-16 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.*

## Hope Does Not Put Us To Shame

- The only place we will experience victory and eternal joy is faith in Christ, "Hope in Christ"
- The Birth of Jesus points to the death of Christ, The death of Christ points to the resurrection of Christ, The resurrection of Christ points to the Second Coming, the Second Coming culminates all Hope for those who have faith.
- There is no shame for those who have faith.
- The things of this world and the sufferings we face can only turn to character and to hope because Christ is victorious over all our sufferings. Our hope is not vain.
- We lay our hearts, our sufferings, and our sin at the foot of the cross. Even in that moment, we know that Christ died for us, the ungodly, paying the price of our sin, dying in our place. Our sufferings are swallowed up in pride and turned to gold by the same hands who make all things new.
- *1 Corinthians 15:20-25 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*
- This Christmas, you are not just celebrating a birthday, but you are celebrating the power that overwhelms all other powers and dominions.
- This power has been given to you. To adore Christ is to live within this very power.

## Love Poured Into Our Hearts

- This special relationship we have with the Father through Jesus Christ is the reason we adore him this Advent season.
- He has provided for us the victory, the glory, and ultimately the Love of God. All beginning at the birth of this baby boy.
- This grace and mercy that has no end has been poured into our hearts to rescue and redeem Him and His beloved people.
- *John 17:20-23 I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*
- You are glory bearers!

This Advent, I don't want our congregation to simply celebrate the Birth of Christ, I want us to adore Him. I want us to be filled with every emotion as we think on his birth through the lens of the all that he gave. I want all else in this world to drift into the background because it cannot overwhelm the impact and priority of Christ in our lives. Adore Him this Christmas.

# Connect Group Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to adore Jesus Christ? How is this different than mere fondness or even liking Him? What changes in a person when they begin to adore something?
- In Romans 5, Paul makes a clear path to hope from sufferings. What path does Paul give to sufferings? How is Christ present in each of these steps?
- What is the hope that Jesus Christ brings us and what is the foundation of that hope? How of God glorified in the giving us hope for a rescued, redeemed, and renewed life?
- How does shame inhibit our coming to Christ with the depth of our sin? What does the Gospel tell us about shame? Why is Jesus Christ greater than our shame?
- Where and when in your life have you experienced the special relationship with th Father through Jesus Christ? In what way does this fuel your hope?

## Challenge For The Week

The hope of Jesus Christ extends beyond anything we have ever done and His love for us is stronger than the depths of our depravity. Nothing will remove us from the grace and hope that comes from Christ alone. Yet, many people fear approaching God. Hope tells us that no matter what we may have done, there is a better life for us in Christ, so so bring yourself fully to Jesus Christ.

- What things in your life are you still wrapped up in shame and hesitant to bring before Christ? In hope, knowing that the love of Christ is greater than the sin of man, confess openly your sin to God and to your discipleship partner.
- The hope of Jesus Christ invites us into special relationship with Him. All who put their hope in Jesus Christ will be saved. In hope, we proclaim the glory of God to the world. Who has God put in your life who needs to know the Gospel? Pray for them and share your faith with them this week.

