

**ROMANS SERIES FIFTEEN**  
**THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION**  
**Pastor Glenn Barteau**  
**Romans 5:6-10, Ps. 95:1**

Ps 95:1

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
 let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Sometimes people read passages like this as a task, or moral obligation... a buck up and like if even if you don't.

Lima beans

Like a parent telling their kid "You're going to eat your lima beans and you're going to like it."

"You're gonna sing to God... and you're going to like it!!!"

~ Rather this passage is calling us to live and experience life through a certain set of lenses... the lenses of seeing God as the rescuer of our souls... someone who loves you with all of His heart.

Disney Trip

Q:

How many of you remember going on family trips as a child?

Today kids have got it made... roomy rear seats... with state of the art DVD players... they even have their own cup holders and A/C rents...

*I remember*

the old days of all four of us riding in the front seat of a pickup truck traveling cross-country when the speed limit was 55.

We would be traveling to Disneyland... and of course on the way there Julie and I would get into arguments or start complaining... and my parents would say... what's there to fight about? You are on your way to Disneyland...!

The land of Mickey Mouse... Peter Pan... the place where even the food has a theme... and it's eternally clean because of those guys with the little trash pales... The land w/ rides and shows... and sugar... it's a child's paradise!!!

We weren't living with the joy of what was coming...

~ This same thing happens in our faith.... We become lulled into a daze of living w/o the excitement of what we really have in God.

*Funny thing*

always happened w/ my sister and me... it happens w/ my own children when headed for Disneyland... at some point they grasp what's coming, and it dominates their thoughts, feelings, and interactions...

That's the way it is suppose to be!

Writers of scripture

are constantly wanting to heighten our awareness to live in the ever-present reality of what we have in a relationship with God.

This passage in Romans is all about getting us to grasp the depth, truth, and beauty that everyone who's hung all their hopes on Jesus... have chosen wisely!!!

Imagine people who said I'm going to put all my hopes fears... my future... my eternal future into the hands of this guy Jesus...

Did I do the right thing... did I just make the biggest mistake... am I fool.

- ✓ Maybe I should have pursued material wealth harder
- ✓ Worked harder to be beautiful... successful
- ✓ Other religions... etc.

### Rom 5:6-8

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

essence -vs- size

~ Here's the deal... what you put your faith in – is far more important than the size of your faith.

You will not regret putting your faith in Jesus... he the right one.

Putting your faith in...

- ✓ Yourself isn't going to cut it...
  - ✓ Is not the path of good works...
  - ✓ Is not the path of religious works...
  - ✓ Don't think that because you are a good person it's all going to work out.
  - ✓ It's not in any other religion or person...
- The essence of our faith is far more important than the size of our faith.
    - It doesn't matter how much you believe in those things... if you only have a little bit of faith in Jesus... If you've put your faith in Jesus it's enough.

### Elephant

College student had the opportunity to go on a picture safari in Africa and 3 weeks into it while he was on a short early morning hike he came over a little hill and discovered a huge bull elephant... with its front left foot in the air... a hard thorny branch was stuck in his foot... after 30 min he finally used his buck knife to pry the thorns from this elephant. The elephant stood there staring at him... raised his foot, and trumpeted loudly and slowly made his way off. He never got a picture of it but the image of that elephant was seared into his brain.

Years later he's on vacation, he and a bunch of friends go to the zoo... he gets to elephants and this one stares at him trumpets loudly and raises its foot. All his friends know the story... "It the elephant", NO, "Yes, he the one, I know it in my heart that the elephant... He sneaks into the pen... walks up to him and raises his foot the Elephant raises his foot, then gently raps his trunk around

the mans leg... picks him up and swings around hitting his head on every rail of the fence. “duga, duga, duga, duga, duga, duga, duga, duga, duga, duga,”

Then slings about a 100 yards out of the pen where the guy his a wall and dies... (probably not the same elephant)

Here’s the deal

It didn’t matter how much he believed... it was still the wrong elephant.

- The essence of your faith is far more important than how much faith you have.
  - ✓ Being a humanitarian is good a thing, but it’s not the path to eternal life
  - ✓ Being real moral isn’t going to do it
  - ✓ Reading your Bible more than your neighbor isn’t going to do it
  - ✓ Being religious can be nice... but religion doesn’t save anyone... a person does... one person... Jesus Christ.

Everything else is just... duga, duga, duga, duga, duga... swoosh....

3 Stanzas

Paul wants to drive this point home so he repeats himself through 3 stanzas... each time increasing the magnitude...

Rom 5:6

Q:

“at just the right time, when we were still powerless”

Who died for us...? Jesus... Jesus has the power... The power to overcome death, the power to change a life at the deepest level

Rom 5:8

“While we were still sinners” It’s not just that we’re powerless there’s something flawed about us...

Each of a times makes selfish choice...

- ✓ You manipulate one of our children
- ✓ You lie to our spouse to cover up our own lusts, or greed.
- ✓ You say hurtful things to a friend because we feel insecure
- ✓ You’re judgmental with someone because in our pride we think we’re better
- ✓ You’ve got some secret coping mechanism like drugs, or pornography... and you use it to escape, or cope in a dysfunctional way.

**It’s selfish, it’s hurtful, and it’s wrong... the Bible calls sin**

Q:

Who substituted his life for ours through death? Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:10

“For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! when we were enemies of God”

~ Our actions have offended God...

Paul says that my life... your life... **stands in total contrast to God....** But it is the love and God... and the death of Jesus Christ substituted for my life and yours that makes' it right...

## David Crowder

## Wholly Yours

I am full of earth, You are heaven's worth  
I am stained with dirt, prone to depravity  
And You are everything that is bright and clean  
The antonym of me, You are divinity

Now he talks about the work of God...

But a certain sign of grace is this  
From a broken earth flowers come up  
Pushing through the dirt

Who's the dirt? We are... The flowers are grace, and what do they push up through? Us...

You are everything that is bright and clean  
And You're covering me with Your majesty  
And the truest sign of grace was this

From wounded hands... Who's he talking about? Jesus...  
From wounded hands redemption fell down  
Liberating man

~ If you have put your faith in this guy... Jesus... You can live w/ great joy... because no matter how small your faith may be right now... You've put it in the right place... You're believing in the right elephant...

↳ YOU ARE A RESCUED ONE... now live w/ that joy... live with the thoughts that you are headed to an outlandish eternity...

## Father saves Son

Aljuwon 14 year old boy gets his hair caught in the suction drain of a hot tub... he's trapped upside down in the bottom of a Jacuzzi... He's toast... he doesn't have the strength to pull free... his lungs are taking in water... he's out of oxygen... he can't scream for help. All he has left are a few fading minutes of life until the tissue in his body uses up the existing O<sub>2</sub>, and then life is over for him.

His father sees what's happening... jumps in the water and begins struggling to free his son from the overwhelming power of this pump that is holding his boy down... no one can free him... Time is ticking away for Aljuwon ... His arms and legs begin to go limp...

Then the most extraordinary thing happens... this father refuses to give up and begins giving his son mouth to mouth resuscitation under water... Holding his sons mouth and nose closed just long enough to go get a breath then **plunges down** into water to breath life giving oxygen into his son.

It's the story of a father who will not give up... You makes a way for his son. Finally Aljuwon'a father gets them to turn the pump off and is able to pull his son free.

Friends

This life we're in... is just a few ticks on the clock of all eternity... and we are the ones trapped in are pride, jealousy, secret manipulation and fears...  
Powerless, and helpless to change a thing

Then the most **extraordinary** thing happened... God **refused to give up**... he **made a way**... It's like Jesus took a giant spiritual breath of life-saving oxygen **plunged** himself into this world...

And his life & death... are like a breath of life-giving oxygen in our souls...

And his resurrection was the ultimate conquering of death that if we believe and receive him... He frees us from the power of sin & death

Paul wants us to grasp the magnitude... the beauty... and the joy of what we have as Christ followers.

Rom 5:11

Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- Part of the normal Christian life is to live with **the joy of being a rescued one.**

Friends

Here's my concern... that we miss the magnitude of what we have in Christ... And in our soul we stop living as a rescued one...

~ We get to caught-up in all the games and concerns of this world... and we souls shrivel – up.

Cultivate a heart for heaven

- ✓ Do you get excited about living as a completely whole person in heaven?
- ✓ Do thoughts of heaven raise the hair on the back your neck?
- ✓ Think like a child going to Disneyland for the first time?
- ✓ Are you as antsy as a bride or groom before the wedding?

Moment of vulnerability here – Roger is preaching on Revelation and the return of Christ... honest, I prayed... please God, don't send Jesus before my wedding night.

### Cultivate your soul

1. Start a relationship with Christ if you haven't
2. Rather than living first for the pleasures of this world... look at them as a taste of things to come.
3. Pray, ask God to give you an eternal perspective
  - a. The way you treat your friends
  - b. The way you love your family
  - c. The way you share God's love with others
4. Communicate your excitement and joy back to God for the gift of your salvation.
  - ~ When you communicate the joy and gratitude you have... the mere act of communicating tends to help cultivate more gratitude and joy.

(We're going to practice this right now... in a tangible way sing this song with the gratitude you do see and feel)

### Song Sweeter

Let's end our time together celebrating what we have in Christ through the song Sweeter

Every day with You, Lord, is sweeter than the day before

What a wonder to live life, really live life, overcoming anything What a reason to lift up, freely lift up, every day my everything from the rising of the sun to the setting of the same.