

Introduction

- On pronouns (Stott, p.138 of "The Message of Romans")
 - now the pronoun is "we"
 - (see photocopy of first page of notes on this chapter from the commentary)
- Paul is describing the results of what Jesus has done for us - some of the reasons we have for rejoicing - this is who we are and what we enjoy now as God's people

The results of justification (v.1-11)

- What have we got as a result of our justification? (v.1)
 - Paul makes 6 confident declarations...

We have peace with God (v.1)

- Pursuit of peace a universal human concern
- More fundamental is a peace with God
 - not just mere feelings
 - but the state of reconciled relationship with him
 - and this is the first blessing of justification
 - in other words, **reconciliation** and **justification** belong together
- Comes to us **through our Lord Jesus Christ** whose death and resurrection made this justification - and so reconciliation - possible
 - this is the heart of the peace the prophets foretold, the **shalom**, the wholeness that radiates to the whole of the rest of life

We are standing in grace (v.2a)

- Standing in the sphere of God's grace, in the privileged position of acceptance by him

We rejoice in [our] hope of the glory of God (v.2b)

- Christian hope is not uncertain
 - cf Moira!
 - we are already citizens of the eternal kingdom, just not home there yet - we rejoice in that privilege...

We also rejoice in our sufferings (v.3-8)

- Particularly in mind are not the day to day aches and pains of life
 - but the **pressures**, the **tribulations** that come when we seek to follow Jesus Christ
 - this is the suffering because we are Christians, specifically
 - choosing to follow Christ, even when it is hard, produces fruit - in ourselves as well as in others
- And our ultimate reason for holding onto such an attitude?
 - God will not give up on loving us
 - and we know that because, as **v.6-8** remind us, of Christ
 - we may at times be very aware, feel the intensity of this - and at other times not - but his love remains the same, demonstrated on the Cross, sure and certain

We shall be saved through Christ (v.9-10)

- We are already citizens of God's kingdom
 - but there is more to come!
 - we shall be saved, we shall be rescued through death to life eternal, we shall no longer have to put up with the frailties of this life - our own bodies, our own sin, our sufferings, our disappointments, the tragedies that press in upon us...
 - we shall be saved, rescued...
- Paul is sketching here, he will fill the picture in in Romans 8!

We also rejoice in God (v.11)

- We rejoice, we exult, in God himself, in our relationship with him
- Sometimes we love to name-drop....
 - but there are times when we are simply proud to have known someone, not by any merit of our own, but glad to have been touched by their life
 - it is this sense that Paul is getting at here - we know God - staggering!

Conclusion

- So?
 - is there not a wonderful strand of joy and rejoicing?
 - almost like the major mark of justified believers, for Paul, is joy!