

“Five Exaltations of Christmas”
Romans 5:1-8

“Christ was born so that mankind could regain the hope, peace, joy, and love lost at the fall. It is regained by faith in Christ, repentance of our sins, and submission to His Lordship.”

- Five Exaltations of Christmas:
 - Christ came so that I could have peace with God and therefore delight in the peace of God in the midst of trials, anxieties, and hardships.
 - Christ came so that my rejoicing would be rooted in the glory of God, not this world, so that my joy does not have to be terminated or upended by suffering. In Christ, our suffering becomes an instrument to enhance our joy and faith in Him.
 - Christ came so that we would have an indestructible hope that could never put us to shame. Instead of being hopeless we boast in the supremacy of Christ over all things.
 - Christ came so that we can mine the depths of God’s love intellectually, enjoy God’s love practically, and give God’s love relationally, for His glory.
 - Christ came to save sinners. To save people who were too weak to save themselves, too proud to ask God for help, and too rebellious to submit their wills to Him.

- Romans 5:1-8
 - *“We rejoice in hope of the glory of God”:*
 - **Rejoice** means to boast in, exult in, or have joy in something.
 - *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24; cf 2 Peter 1:16; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2)*
 - Paul rejoiced in what he believed.
 - Paul rejoiced in his position in Christ — not his practice.
 - Paul rejoiced when he thought about his future with Christ.

 - *“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”*
 - **Poured:** In abundance, overflowing, torrents that are able to be seen and experienced.
 - This is something that the Holy Spirit does.
 - *“The greatest characteristic of the greatest saints is the desire to understand God’s love for them more and more.” (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)*

 - *“While we were still weak”:*
 - **This weakness is a spiritual weakness.** Man cannot save himself. Our attempt to keep the law couldn’t save us. Man’s wisdom and philosophy couldn’t save us. Every attempt of mankind to be right with God fell short.

 - *“But God shows His love for us....”*
 - The cross of Christ is where we see the greatest expression of love!

Worship: Silent Night — Various Artists

O Come All Ye Unfaithful — Sovereign Grace Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — Various Artists

Closing Song: Crown Him — Citizens

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30p/Men 7p; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

“Five Exaltations of Christmas” (A Review of our Advent Sermon Series)

Romans 5:1-8

“Christ was born so that mankind could regain the hope, peace, joy, and love lost at the fall. It is regained by faith in Christ, repentance of our sins, and submission to His Lordship.”

Whatever makes you most happy will be the center and priority of your life. Is it Christ or someone or something else?

- Five Exaltations of Christmas: ***Five reasons to have extreme and exuberant joy.***
 - Christ came so that I could have ***peace*** with God and therefore delight in the peace of God in the midst of trials, anxieties, and hardships.
 - Christ came so that my rejoicing would be rooted in the glory of God, not this world, so that ***my joy*** does not have to be terminated or upended by suffering. In Christ, our suffering becomes an instrument ***to enhance our joy and faith in Him.***
 - Christ came so that we would have ***an indestructible hope*** that could never put us to shame. Instead of being hopeless we boast in the supremacy of Christ over all things.
 - Christ came so that we can mine ***the depths of God’s love*** intellectually, enjoy God’s love practically, and give God’s love relationally, for His glory.
 - ***Christ came to save sinners.*** To save people who were too weak to save themselves, too proud to ask God for help, and too rebellious to submit their wills to Him.

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 - Paul rejoiced in what he believed.
 - Paul rejoiced in His position in Christ - not his practice.
 - Paul rejoiced when he thought about his future with Christ. ***In eternity we will fully regain the communion we had with God before the fall!***
- ***Our beliefs and practices in the midst of suffering is evidence of saving faith. An unbeliever or a pagan can boast in God in ease, but only a believer will boast in God in devastation.***
- ***The blessing of suffering and difficulty is that it reminds us of our need for the Lord over and over and over again.***
- ***In trials Christians pray more instead of complaining more. In trials Christians spend more time with God, not away from God. In trials Christians ask God for help in humility, not just push through it in pride.***
- *“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”*
 - ***Poured:*** In abundance, overflowing, torrents that are able to be seen and experienced.
 - This is something that the Holy Spirit does.
 - *“The greatest characteristic of the greatest saints is the desire to understand God’s love for them more and more.” – Martyn Lloyd-Jones*
- *“While we were still weak”:*
 - ***This weakness is a spiritual weakness.*** Man cannot save himself. Our attempt to keep the law couldn’t save us. Man’s wisdom and philosophy couldn’t save us. Every attempt of mankind to be right with God fell short.
- *“But God shows his love for us...”*
 - The cross of Christ is where we see the greatest expression of love!

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- *We look, we survey, we consider, we dwell on, we meditate on, we think about the cross of Christ and God's love shown there.*
- *As Christians we are confident in a full and total salvation!*

The hope, joy, and peace that Christ offers is not simply found in life being easy, money being abundant, and anxieties, fears and worries being absent. But instead Christian hope, joy and peace stands steadfast in the midst of impossible and despairing circumstances, it anchors us in the midst of the violent winds of anxieties and worry, and it smothers the cares of this world with the victorious truths and promises of Scripture as the cares of this world rip maliciously at our souls . This is "the peace that is beyond our understanding" (Philippians 4:7). This is the hope, joy, and peace that draws men and women who are citizens of a merciless and death driven world to a victorious Savior that has defeated and is defeating all the enemies of our hope and peace. Rejoice in the Glory of God!