

Why can we rejoice in 2020?

Romans 5:1-12

1

Is it possible to measure love?

- How do we know if someone's actions or words are loving?
- In what ways does love cost someone?
- How would you rate...
 - your acts of love?
 - God's acts of love?

High cost		
Low cost		
	'Good' person (friend, family, etc)	'Bad' person (opponent, adversary, etc)

2

Romans 5:1-11

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 boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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Romans 5:1-11

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while 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! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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Romans

- Letter
- Author: Paul, toward the end of his arduous ministry
- Audience: A mixed community of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome
- What's at stake?
 - Possible crisis in Jerusalem about \$\$\$
 - Extending the good news to Spain
 - Unifying a divided Christian community around the gospel in Rome, the empire's capital

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Romans 5:1-11

1 We have peace with God

- There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement...to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as **to be just and the one who justifies** those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:22-25
- **all** guilty. all **forgivable**. God is **just & merciful**
- 'we' (21x) = God's people united in Christ
- 'justified through faith' = God acquits those who have faith in Christ

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The benefits of salvation
Romans 5:1-11

1 We have peace with God

2a We are standing in grace

- 'gained access' = escorted to royal throne
- 'now' = already experienced
- 'stand' = confidence in and effect of the quality of grace

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The benefits of salvation
Romans 5:1-11

1 We have peace with God

2a We are standing in grace

2b We rejoice in our hope of the glory of God

- boast = rejoicing confidence
- hope = certainty (not 'hope so...')
- Left to ourselves we fall short of God's glory, but Christ has changed that. ...for all creation!
 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. *Romans 8:18-19*

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The benefits of salvation
Romans 5:1-11

1 We have peace with God

2a We are standing in grace

2b We rejoice in our hope of the glory of God

3-8 We rejoice in our suffering

- Sufferings = real hardships, not pleasant, Christ's path, our path
- suffering → perseverance → character → hope
- Why does hope not disappoint?
 - Grounded in God's immeasurable love

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Two perspectives on God's immeasurable love
Romans 5:5-8

Two ways God assures us his love, esp in suffering:

(1) God's love experienced (subjective) – v.5

- Poured into our hearts
- Gift of Holy Spirit

(2) God's love displayed (objective) – v.6-8

- Giving one's life is rare for a 'Righteous man' (keeps letter of law), possible for a 'good man' (warm, generous love) --> both would be remarkable!

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Two perspectives on God's immeasurable love
Romans 5:5-8

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(1) God's love experienced (subjective) – v.5

- Poured into our hearts
- Gift of Holy Spirit

(2) God's love displayed (objective) – v.6-8

- Giving a life for anyone is remarkable!
- Human condition: powerless, ungodly, sinners, enemies
- 'own love' – God present in Christ, his 'son' (v.10)

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Les Misérables, Victor Hugo (1862)



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God's immeasurable love

The more the gift costs the giver
and the less the recipient deserves it,
the greater the love is seen to be.
Measured by these standards,
God's love in Christ is absolutely unique.
For in sending his Son to die for sinners,
he was giving everything, his very self, to those who
deserved nothing from him except judgment.

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The benefits of salvation *Romans 5:1-11*

1 We have peace with God

2a We are standing in grace

2b We rejoice in our hope of the glory of God

3-8 We rejoice in our suffering

9-10 We shall be saved through Christ

– **already ... not yet**

– **If God has done the difficult thing** (justifying undeserving sinners, dying for and reconciling his enemies),
can we not trust him to the do the relatively simple thing of completing the task (shielding us from judgment, finish our salvation as reconciled friends) ?

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The benefits of salvation
Romans 5:1-11

1 We have peace with God

2a We are standing in grace

2b We rejoice in our hope of the glory of God

3-8 We rejoice in our suffering

9-10 We shall be saved through Christ

11 We rejoice in God

- ‘now received reconciliation’ – joy of restored relationship with this remarkable God

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Big Idea

God’s immeasurable love

(displayed on the cross, poured into hearts)

graciously acquits,

ends despair,

awakens joy, and

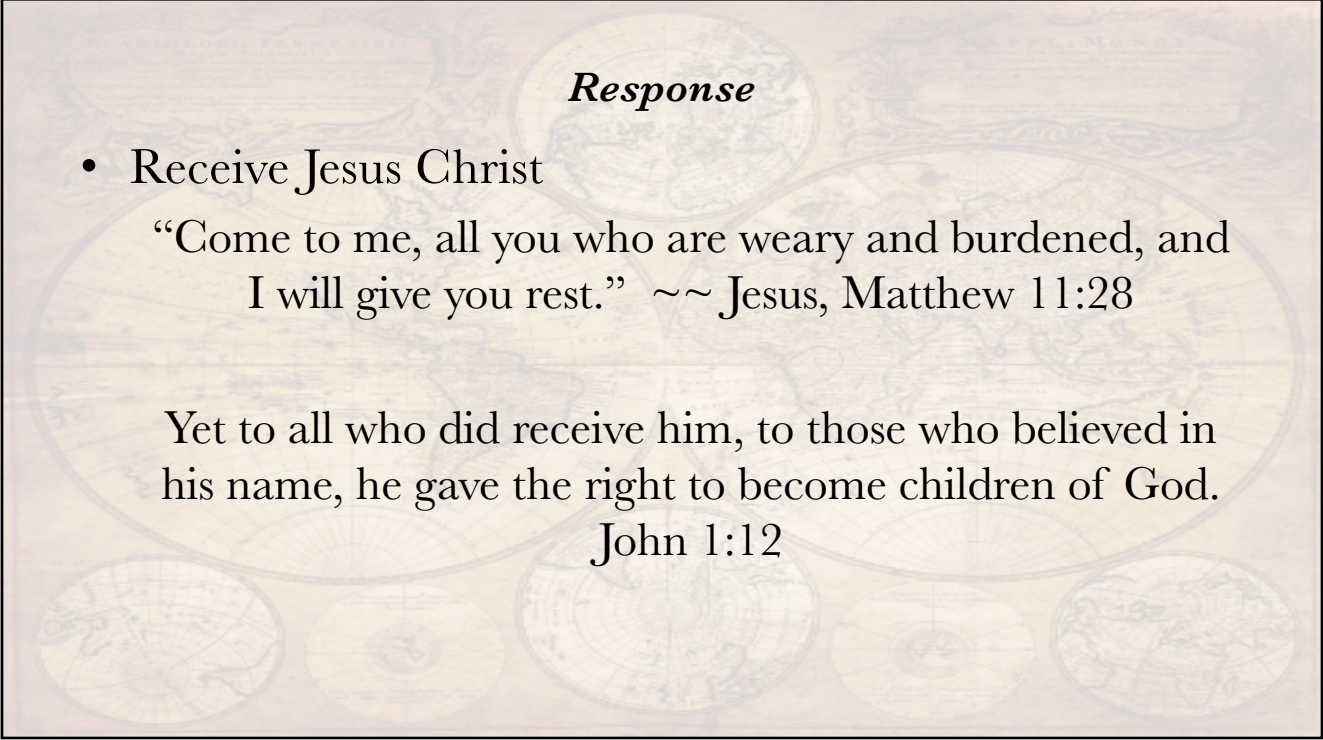
confirms hope

(when?) in 2020 and forever

For whom?

**Powerless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God
 who believe in Jesus Christ**

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Response

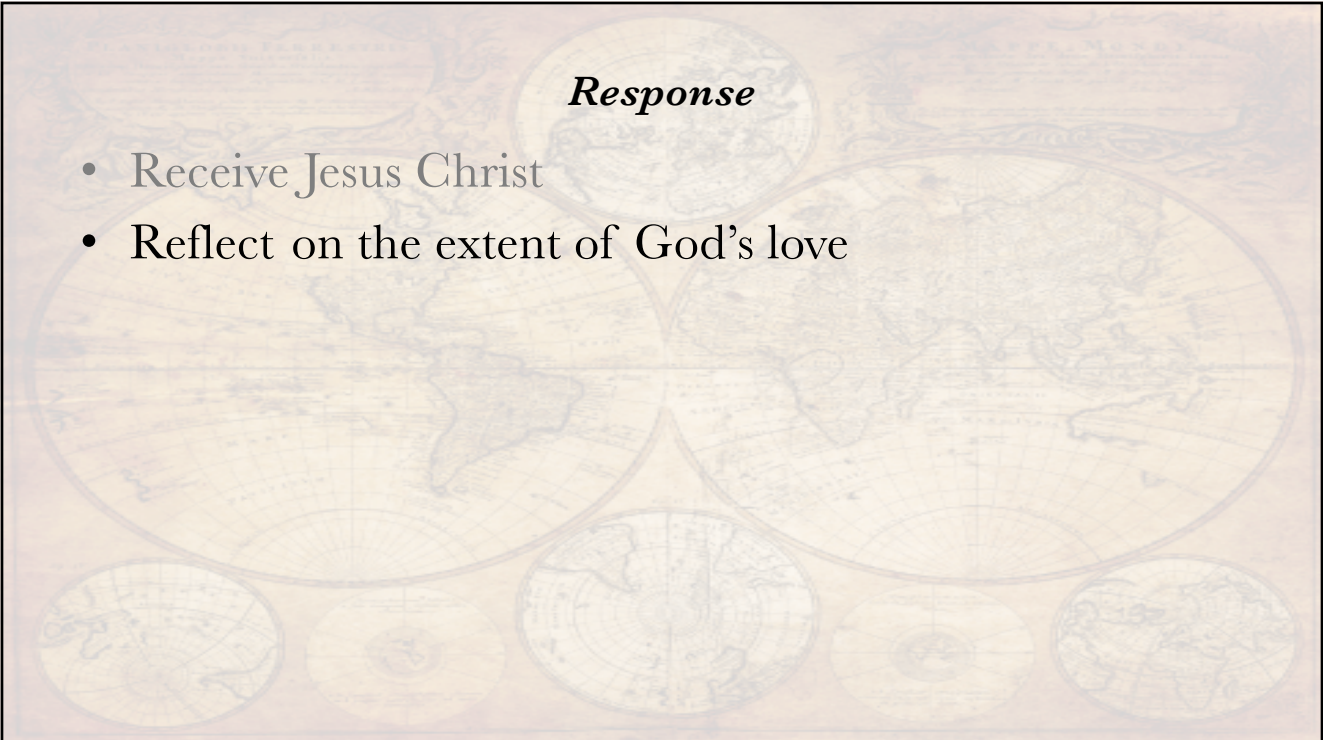
- Receive Jesus Christ

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” ~ ~ Jesus, Matthew 11:28

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

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Response

- Receive Jesus Christ
- Reflect on the extent of God’s love

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THE 3D GOSPEL
FOR NEAR AND FAR CULTURES

Worldview Triangle ([CMC Membership video](#))

Worldview Triangle

Guilt/Innocence

My background: global west

My Gospel was too small
Understanding how others see and experience
God expanded my understanding of God
and help me read the Bible better

Objective standard (law)
* Fits individualism
Problem: guilt
Goal: innocence
Solution: punishment or forgiveness
"If we confess, he forgives" 1 John 1:8-10

Shame/Honor

Family/relational connection
* Fits collectivism
Problem: shame and separation
Goal: honor and connection
Solution: reconciliation, belonging
"adoption to sonship... members of God's household" Ephesians 1:5

Fear/Power

Power (especially spiritual)
Problem: vulnerability
Goal: security & well being
Solution: powerful hero & power in us
"His incomparably great power for us who believe" Ephesians 1:19

Global West
Global East
Global South

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Response

- Receive Jesus Christ
- Reflect on the extent of God's love
- Rejoice...in peace with God, in trials, in God himself

"The Judge has pronounced us righteous,
the Father has welcomed us home....

It seems clear from Rom 5:1-11 that the major mark of justified believers is joy, especially joy in God himself. We should be the most positive people in the world." ~ John Stott

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Response

- Receive Christ
- Reflect on the depth of grace
- Rejoice...in peace with God, in trials, in God himself
- Re-enact the love God has demonstrated

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Romans 12:9-21 Love in Action!

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **¹⁰** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **¹¹** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **¹²** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **¹³** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **¹⁵** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **¹⁶** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

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Romans 12:9-21 Love in Action!

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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**Receive
Reawaken
Rejoice
in God's immeasurable love
(in and through suffering)...**

Then re-enact God's love!

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