



## **Many Reasons for Rejoicing** **Luke 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-10**

*But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God (Romans 5:8-9—ESV).*

Jesus showed God's love for us when He came into our world in the flesh as the Good Shepherd to seek and save the lost and even carry them back into His fold rejoicing. He came that we might receive Him into our lives as His Word written reveals Him. He bore us on His shoulder when He carried His cross to suffer and die on a hill on our behalf. As sinners, we have made God justifiably angry. And Jesus showed some of that divine anger when He spoke to the scribes, priests, and Pharisees who laid heavy burdens on God's people, who robbed widows and orphans, and who made the place set aside in the temple for Gentiles to worship God into a den of thieves. But Jesus died on the cross even for them, that they too might be forgiven and saved from their sins.

After Jesus shed His blood for us and we believed in Him, He put us into a right relationship with God. In Jesus Christ, God forgave us for all our sins, cleansed us from all sin, and removed from us the eternal consequences we deserved for our sins. In us, Jesus began the spiritual healing and reformation we needed to prepare us for heaven. For more reasons that we can imagine, God rejoices with all the angels and with us because of the new relationship we have with Him as new people. There is "joy in heaven over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:7).

After Jesus did all this for us, God's children, He came with the Holy Spirit to live with us. Having cleansed us from sin, He made us into a fit home and temple so our Holy God can indwell us and remain with us forever. As children of God, adopted into God's family, Jesus saves us by living within us 24 hours a day. If we stray and grieve Jesus and the Holy Spirit, Jesus does not have far to go to seek us and find us and bring us back. Here, we may suffer the consequences of our sin. We may suffer the discipline of God because our Heavenly Father disciplines those He loves, but in these and other ways, Jesus finds us and carries us back to God. Therefore, we have many reasons to rejoice with God and the angels in heaven over every sinner who repents, and for all God has done and does for us.