

(1) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

(3) Not only that, but we rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

(6) For while we were still weak, at the right time --- Christ died for the ungodly. For one would scarcely die for a righteous person --- though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die --- but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

(9) Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Think on These Things

- 1) "Therefore" in v. 1 once more looks back on chapter 4 (last week's lesson), pointing out that Abraham, against all hope, believed God's promise for an heir coming from him and Sarah as senior citizens. This same type of belief --- hope against hope --- in Jesus' resurrection brings God's justification. When things are "good" between us and God, and we're not just waiting for His wrath to descend upon us, what does v. 1 say we experience? Is this your experience today?

When things are 'right' between us and God, v. 1 says we have "peace" with Him. Jesus made this possible!

- 2) Boasting in hope and God's glory is one thing. Do you boast also in your life trials, hassles and hardships? Why should we be willing to boast about these troubles? Name the three qualities a person develops in faith while going through troubles. (See James 1:2-7, 12 and Psalm 66:8-12)

Most of us don't 'boast' in our hardships and hassles, though we may be willing to 'share' them with other believers in our congregation either by testimony or requests for prayer support. Supporting one another in 'body life' is important and invaluable, and openness about life's issues keeps us both humble and genuine in regards to faith. Here, Paul notes that we gain endurance (patience, not quitting, hanging in there), character (maturity, integrity, a solid reputation), and hope (confidence in God and His future). James adds that we become 'steadfast' and avoid 'double-mindedness' (instability and doubts), and ultimately receive God's Crown of Life. Psalms says it is God who brings us through to abundance after troubles.

- 3) Why will our hope NOT disappoint us? (v. 5) Can you see the trinity in this verse?

God has poured out His love upon us. This is a reference to the Father's plan to send Jesus into our world as God (the Son) to be the sacrificial Lamb who provides humanity (believers) with the certainty of salvation. We need not fear disappointment; God's approval is confirmed by Jesus' resurrection! We see God (the Father) and the God (the Holy Spirit) clearly in this verse, but we also see Jesus clearly in verses 1-2.

- 4) What is the human condition described as in verses 6 and 8 when Christ dies on behalf of the ungodly? What do you think it means when it says He came at the “appropriate time”?

V. 6 says we (humans) were ‘weak’ (i.e., lacking moral strength) while v. 8 states directly that we were ‘sinners.’ These conditions apply to us being described by God as “the ungodly.” Humans are a sin-marred and broken creation on this earth. God the Father developed a salvation “plan” from before the foundation of the world that unfolded through OT prophecy.

Jesus became “human” according to the timeline the Father established (Galatians 4:4-5), and then died as the ‘propitiation’ to appease God’s anger and wrath (at sin) to bring salvation to all who believe and trust in Him (Romans 3:25). Scholars also point out that the Greek and Roman kingdoms brought most of the known world (around the Jews) under one language and system --- contributing to the quick spread of the Gospel after the resurrection of Jesus.

- 5) Have you considered what it would be like to sacrifice one of your cherished children so that others may live? Do you think you could do this? This is what it cost to save you!

Almost a rhetorical question...! Most everyone is likely to say, NO, I would never do anything like that to my child --- especially for people who hate my family and my child! But that’s exactly what God did (vs. 6-10) --- He loved us enough to sacrifice His Son so that we could spend eternity with Him. And on the cross, when Jesus felt cut-off, He cried out in agony, “Why have You forsaken Me?” This was a horrible moment in God’s eternal existence....

- 6) Our last paragraph, vs. 9-11, exposes a great irony. If God reached out to help us when we were so against Him, what do you think He will do now that we are for Him?

V. 10 speaks of two things God, in His great love, will do: He will now SAVE us because of the life Jesus sacrificed on the cross for our sin; and He will BE RECONCILED to us. This latter comment leads to ‘peace’ with God as we become His and are drawn closer to Him in relationship. Thank God for JESUS, through whom we have received reconciliation!

- 7) Christ’s death delivered us from God’s wrath, and it reconciled us to the Father. Now that we are reconciled, the rhetorical question being asked is what will we get from Jesus’ resurrected life? (See also John 10:10)

Life --- an abundant (and full) one --- now and eternally!

People and situations I want to pray for this week: