

(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?

- 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)

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

- 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”?

- 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!

- 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?

- 7) Christ’s death delivered us from God’s _____, 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)

People and situations I want to pray for this week: