

Romans 5:1-11^{iv}

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

^{iv} About the Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Paul uses two metaphors to describe God's redeeming act in Christ: justification, the ending of a legal dispute, and reconciliation, the termination of a state of enmity. Christ's sacrifice demonstrates God's justifying, reconciling love for us.

The work of salvation was begun in Christ's ministry, death and resurrection and is now operative through the Holy Spirit. Whereas justification marks the beginning of this process, salvation marks its future completion. We enter more fully into salvation by participating in Christ's risen life and by anticipating a share in God's glory.
