

Romans 5:1-8ⁱⁱⁱ

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.

ⁱⁱⁱ About Romans 5:1-8

Paul uses two equivalent metaphors to describe God's redeeming act in Christ: justification, that is, the ending of a legal dispute (3:21-26), and reconciliation, that is, the termination of a state of enmity. Paul makes it clear that it is we who are estranged from God; there is no room here for a doctrine of the cross in which Christ's sacrifice pacified an angry God. Instead, in Christ's sacrifice God manifests God's justifying, reconciling love for us.

Although Christians are still sinful, transformation through the gift of the Holy Spirit has begun. One effect is that they have peace with and access to God (5:1-2). A second effect is that they now possess confident hope, leading them to look forward to the fullness of sanctification. Whereas justification marks the start of this process, salvation marks its future completion. Christians enter ever more fully into salvation by participating in Christ's risen life and by anticipating a share in God's glory.