

The apostle Paul's argument moves from **justification**, (what God **has done for us** in Christ), to **glorification** (what God **will do for us** in Christ). He focuses on how we are to **live rejoicing in our present experience of God's saving grace, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we wait in hope for God's glory.**

**V.1 'justified through faith we have peace with God'** By putting our faith (trust) in God we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection (4:25) we have received the benefits of God's grace (God's love that we do not deserve) and we live ('stand') in this grace (see Rm. 8:38f).

**V.2** This means we can have **hope** for the future because we will be in the **glorious presence** of God forever. Although '**all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**' (3:23) God's gift of '**His free grace**' (3:24) will enable us to share in His glory (8:17) along with all of creation (8:21). Our hope is based on **God's promise** that He will complete our salvation by filling us with His glory (Jn. 12:23f).

**V.3** When Christians **suffer** (Jn. 16:3) they should not be discouraged and so give up hope. Rather they should see their suffering as something to rejoice in because of what it can produce '**perseverance**'. Suffering is the one and only path to glory.

**V.4** By perseverance we can remain faithful in the face of suffering - thus perseverance produces Christian '**character**'- **maturity**.

**V.5** A Christian character developed by persevering through suffering is marked by '**hope**'- in the future because it is safe in God. Our assurance of this is based on the **outpouring of God's love**, which is made known to us by the ministry of the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit** (God with us - see Eph. 1:14 & Titus 3:5-7).

**Vv.6-8** God's marvellous plan for our salvation was motivated by the depth of His love for us; even while we were still sinners '**Christ died for the ungodly**' [us]. This is further proof of God's love for us and the basis of our confident hope.

**V.9 'being justified by his blood'** - Christ's death is the means by which we are able to be in a right relationship with God. Paul **contrasts** our **present experience** of having **been** justified (past event) with **our future assurance** (based on God's love ministered to us through the Holy Spirit) that **we will be 'saved from God's wrath'**. By this he means that those who have **faith** in God will be saved from God's final judgement of all people.

**V.10** God's work of **reconciling** us to Himself, by forgiving our sin through the death of Christ, occurred while we were still God's enemies. Now as God's friends we are assured of being saved through His life (see Rm 8:34). Christ in his resurrected life will bring to perfection what he accomplished in his death, our ultimate eternal salvation, **through his intercession for us and by our being united to him** (6:8).

**V.11** This leads to Paul encouraging the believers to **rejoice** in their present situation (see vs 3) **of peace with God even though they are experiencing suffering**. Having received God's grace through our lord Jesus Christ, and having experienced God's love through the indwelling Holy Spirit we have much in which to rejoice.

**Response:** How do we experience God's peace and love when our faith is tested through suffering? How does our trust in God and His presence with us through His Spirit enable us to endure through suffering?