



HOLY CROSS CATHEDRAL

This Bible study is designed as a follow-up to the sermon preached on Sunday, June 14th.

Read Romans 5:1-11.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² 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 sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ 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. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- ⁸ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Look through this passage and write down all the actions it says God (or "Christ") has done or will do for us. *Note that often in the Bible a passive verb (like "we have been justified") is used to show that God is the one doing the action.*

List all the *results* of God's actions that you see. Dean Michael mentioned three in the sermon, but there are more that could be included.

In the sermon it was noted that in John 15:13 Jesus notes that he lays down his life "for his friends." How are we described in this passage (look especially in verses 6, 8, and 10)? Why is the message of what Jesus has done here in Romans 5 even greater than Jesus dying for his *friends*?

In the sermon, one of the results of Jesus's death was that we now have **peace with God**. What is the weekly reminder of this great truth that we experience in our liturgy?

The second result of Jesus's death mentioned in the sermon is that those who are in Christ have **access to grace**. The sermon briefly noted the way the ancient Israelite temple was built. (*As one proceeded farther into it, fewer and fewer people were permitted to go; the holiest place where God was present in a special way was only accessible by one individual – the High Priest.*) How does this access change because of Jesus's death?

The third result of Jesus's death mentioned in the sermon is **hope**. Because Jesus died for us, we have hope that we will be saved in the end. We can trust that this hope is *certain* and *sure* and not wishful thinking because... (*two reasons were mentioned in the sermon*):

Verse 6: Christ _____ for the _____.

Verse 5: The _____ has been given to us.

These objective realities encourage us that our hope in Christ is sure.

We receive the gift of God in Jesus through faith, not by anything we can do ourselves. It is his free gift of grace (verses 1-2, 8). As it was said at the conclusion of the sermon, "*What is to die for? You are; and Jesus did.*"

Read Romans 5:1-11 again.

What is one significant take-away for you personally? How will you put this into practice this week, this month, this year?

If you have never received Jesus in faith, are you ready to do so now?

An appropriate prayer to pray to God to receive Jesus might go like this:

Almighty Father, I confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions (especially _____). I am truly sorry and humbly repent. Thank you for forgiving my sins through the death of your Son, Jesus. I turn to you and give you my life. Fill and strengthen me with your Holy Spirit to love you, to follow Jesus as my Lord in the fellowship of his Church, and to become more like him each day. Amen.

If you receive Jesus in faith for the first time, would you let us know? We want to join with you in the journey...