

Romans 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Analysis

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ—Paul returns to *καυχώμεθα* (kauchōmetha, 'we boast/rejoice/exult'), now with God Himself as the object. The progression is striking: we boast in hope of glory (v.2), in tribulations (v.3), and supremely in God. This is the ultimate reversal of human pride: our boasting is not in ourselves but in the God who justifies the ungodly (4:5).

By whom we have now received the atonement (δι' οὗ νῦν τὴν καταλλαγὴν ἐλάβομεν)—the aorist *ἐλάβομεν* indicates definite past reception. KJV's 'atonement' translates *καταλλαγή* (katallagē), better rendered 'reconciliation' (as in v.10). The word doesn't appear in Greek OT sacrificial texts; Paul uses it for the restored relationship, not merely ritual covering. The temporal *νῦν* (nyn, 'now') emphasizes present possession—reconciliation is current reality, not future hope.

Historical Context

The concept of 'boasting in God' echoes Jeremiah 9:23-24 (LXX), which Paul quotes in 1 Corinthians 1:31 and 2 Corinthians 10:17—'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' This was countercultural in both Jewish and Greco-Roman contexts: Jews boasted in law-keeping and covenant status (2:17-23), Greeks in wisdom and eloquence (1 Corinthians 1:22-23). Paul insists the only legitimate boasting is in what God has done through Christ, excluding all self-congratulation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between 'joy in God' and joy in religious experiences, spiritual gifts, or Christian service?
2. How can you tell whether your 'boasting' is genuinely in God's work through Christ or subtly in your own spiritual achievements?
3. What does receiving reconciliation 'now' teach about assurance versus waiting until death to know your standing with God?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	μόνον	δέ	ἀλλὰ	καὶ	καυχώμενοι	ἐν	τῷ	θεῷ	δι'
not	only	And	so but	we also		joy	in	God	by
G3756	G3440	G1161	G235	G2532		G2744	G1722	G2316	G1223

τοῦ	κυρίου	ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	δι'	οὐ	νῦν	τὴν
G3588	Lord	our	Jesus	Christ	by	whom	now	G3588
	G2962	G2257	G2424	G5547	G1223	G3739	G3568	

καταλλαγὴν ἐλάβομεν
the atonement received
G2643 G2983

Additional Cross-References

Romans 5:10 (References God): For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Isaiah 61:10 (References God): I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath

covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Philippians 4:4 (References Lord): Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Psalms 43:4 (References God): Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

Psalms 149:2 (Parallel theme): Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Psalms 104:34 (References Lord): My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

Galatians 4:9 (References God): But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

1 Samuel 2:1 (References Lord): And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

1 Peter 1:8 (Parallel theme): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: