

Romans 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Analysis

Much more then, being now justified by his blood—Paul employs a *fortiori* (how much more) reasoning: if God loved enemies enough to justify them through Christ's sacrificial death, He will certainly preserve the justified from final wrath. The aorist participle δικαιωθέντες (*dikaiōthentes*, 'having been justified') emphasizes completed action; en tō haimati autou (ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ, 'by/in his blood') specifies the means—Christ's blood as atoning sacrifice (3:25).

We shall be saved from wrath through him (σωθησόμεθα δι' αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῆς ὄργης)—the future passive σωθησόμεθα looks to final eschatological deliverance. God's ὄργη (*orgē*, wrath) is His settled opposition to sin (1:18), not capricious anger but holy justice. The logic is compelling: if God gave His Son for enemies, He will surely complete salvation for those now reconciled. This assurance answers potential doubts about perseverance.

Historical Context

Paul's 'blood' language draws from both Jewish sacrificial system (Leviticus 17:11—"the life is in the blood") and Passover typology (Exodus 12—blood protecting from wrath). For Jewish readers, Christ is the ultimate Passover Lamb whose blood shields from divine judgment. For Gentiles familiar with pagan sacrifices but ignorant of their meaning, Paul explains that Christ's death is the true propitiatory sacrifice that turns away wrath and secures peace with God.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. If you are already justified by Christ's blood, what role does ongoing obedience play in your final salvation?
2. How does certainty of being 'saved from wrath' affect your daily anxiety about spiritual standing before God?
3. What does it mean practically that you will be saved 'through him' rather than through your own perseverance?

Interlinear Text

πολλῷ	οὖν	μᾶλλον	δικαιωθέντες	νῦν	ἐν	τῷ	αἷματι
Much	then	more	being	now	by	G3588	blood
G4183	G3767	G3123	G1344	G3568	G1722		G129

αὐτοῦ	σωθησόμεθα	δι'	αὐτοῦ	ἀπὸ	τῆς	όργῆς
him	we shall be saved	through	him	from	G3588	wrath
G846	G4982	G1223	G846	G575		G3709

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (Judgment): And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Romans 8:1 (Parallel theme): There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:13 (Blood): But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

John 5:24 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 1:18 (Righteousness): For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Romans 5:1 (Righteousness): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:30 (Righteousness): Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Hebrews 9:22 (Blood): And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:14 (Blood): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 John 1:7 (Blood): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.