

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the Book of Romans

After a one-week hiatus, we are back to our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome and to us today – about the fundamentals of Christianity.

What is the gospel of grace?

And I was looking at our text yesterday morning – I was reminded of one of Paul's prayers in his letter to the church in Ephesus

[Eph 1:17-18 NKJV] 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

I love this prayer –

Paul prayed that God would come to many and reveal His love to them.

We need to know about God's love for us

We need to understand about His care for us

His plans for us

His inheritance

That God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Paul's point is that the focus is not on what we should be doing for God or what we should not be doing for God, but the focus is on what He has already done for us already.

The focus is on how much He loves us

Just how deep is God's love

How wide is God's love

And that is the focus of our text this morning.

Let's pray...

Read Text

Paul has been building an argument, he has been building a case.

He's made the point that we are all sinners.

He's demonstrated that Jesus Christ is the sacrifice God has given to pay for our sins.

He's argued that we are not made righteous by doing good works, but we are made righteous when we have faith like Abraham did.

God uses our faith as the vehicle or the means to help us receive the forgiveness that comes through Jesus' sacrifice.

But Paul didn't simply stop by giving us the good news that forgiveness is found in Jesus Christ

Paul began to tell us about all the benefits and reasons to rejoice that comes from putting our faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

And we began to look at some of those benefits and reasons to rejoice in the first 5 verses of this chapter

1. We have peace with God – and because we have peace with God, we can have the peace of God (verse 1)
2. We have access to God (verse 2) - Jesus is our access – there is no other way. In order to have a right standing before God, we must go through the door. We must go through Jesus

It is only through Him that salvation is possible.

So this access allows us to come boldly to the throne of grace.

3. We can rejoice in our difficulties knowing that these difficulties produce growth. The difficulties in our lives build our endurance and endurance produces

character – this where people see what we are made of. And character produces hope (3,4)

4. And with hope, we experience the love of God as we have the indwelling presence the Holy Spirit (verse 5). God gave us His Holy Spirit to come and drive home His love to us in our hearts.

So that we would understand.

So that we would have that revelation

So that we would have that motivation

But wait.....

There is more -

[Rom 5:6-11 NKJV] 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

I had you make a note of the phrase – “without strength”

And the reason is that the Greek word that is used here, is a word we find over and over again to describe those that are sick, those that are weak, those that are lame.

Luke records Peter using the same word to refer to the lame man that was sitting there at the gate of the temple in Acts 4

He was helpless –

He had no power in and of himself to lift himself up.

So – what does Paul mean when he says “when we were still without strength”

He is referring back to the time when we were still unsaved

When we did not have peace with God

When we were people apart from God

Apart from Christ

When we were unable to do anything personally or morally to lift ourselves out of our sinful condition.

We were broken – just like the lame man in Acts 4

We couldn't do anything to save ourselves –

But God did it – because of His love for us.

Turn to Luke 4

[Luk 4:17-20 NKJV] 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the LORD [is] upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to [the] poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to [the] captives And recovery of sight to [the] blind, To set at liberty

those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” 20 Then He closed the book, and gave [it] back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

The poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the blind, the oppressed

That was you and me apart from Christ

You see loved ones, this is why Jesus came

So for the person who says – I am not broken, I may not be perfect, but I am certainly not broken – and they think that they can somehow pull themselves up on their own – that person has never experienced grace. That person has never experienced the magnitude of the love of God.

Paul also writes that Jesus came in due time –

That means that Jesus came at exactly the right moment

[Gal 4:4 NKJV] 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Exactly the right time – not a moment too soon

And Jesus came to die

Three times in our text – Paul is going to remind us that Christ died

Here in verse 6

In verse 8

And in verse 10

Jesus had to die.

Some people have the misconception that if I just study the teachings of Jesus and follow the teachings of Jesus and walk the way that He walked and talk that way that He talked – then everything is going to work out.

The problem is that we can't – because we are broken.

Not only did Jesus have to die – he died for the ungodly

What about the nice people?

What about the good people?

What about the righteous people?

Did Jesus die for them?

Again, Paul's point that he has been trying to make is that there are no good people – we all fall short of the glory of God.

Because His standard of righteousness – is perfection.

Let's look at the depth of Gd's love -

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Paul wants us to understand that the Gospel is motivated by an astounding love, so he contrasts it with the noblest love we can think of.

Giving our life for someone else.

Now, we all value life

We don't want to waste our life on someone or something that is not worthy of our love and affection.

It doesn't make sense for us to give our lives to a murderer

It makes more sense to give our lives to someone who is decent and kind

But God – loves us, when did He love us

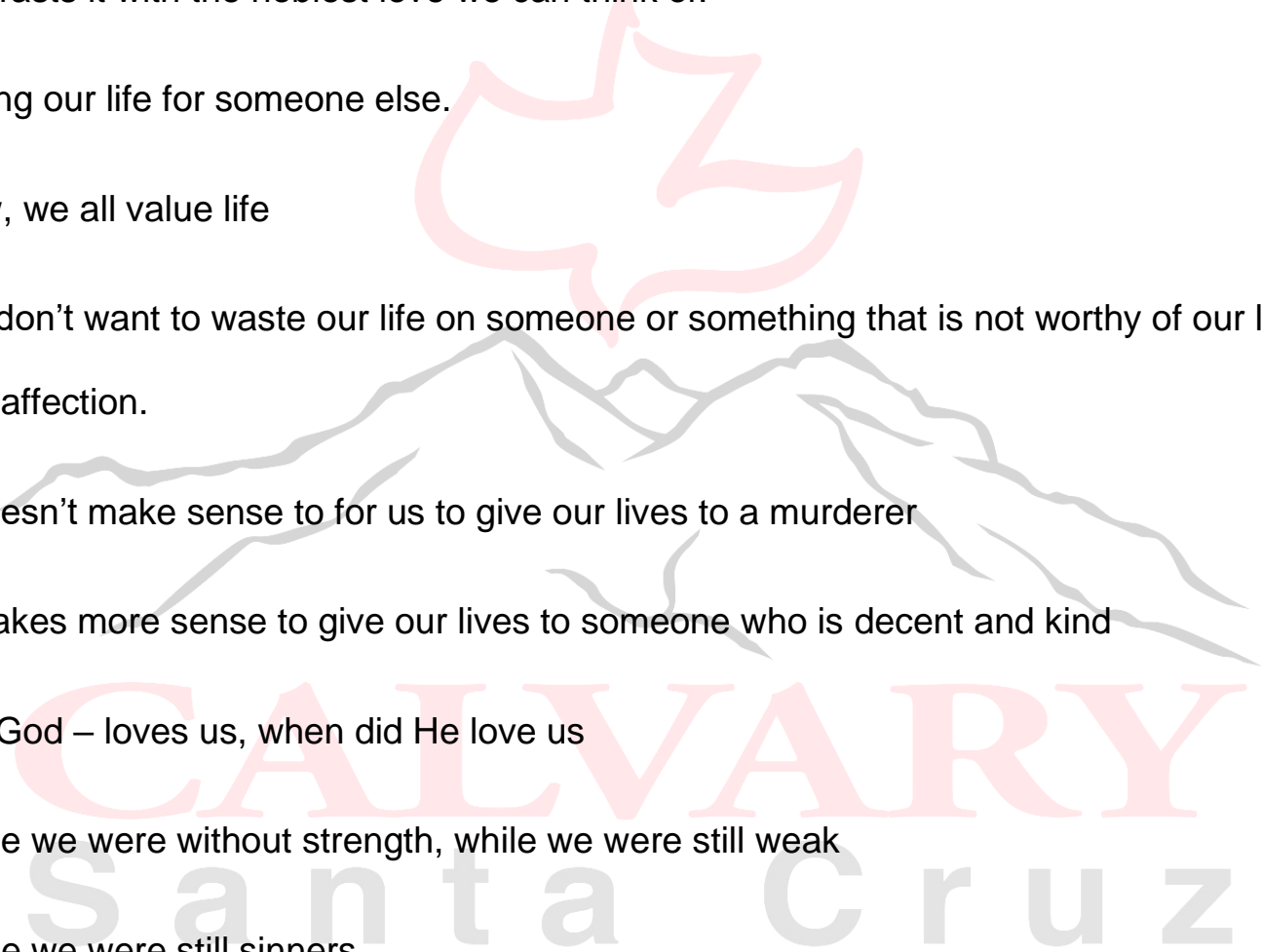
While we were without strength, while we were still weak

While we were still sinners

When we were still at war with God – He sent His Son to die for us

Church, this is unconditional love

This is God's love



And it is all on His part

He did it all

While I was a sinner, Christ died for me

I was mocking Him, I was cursing Him, I thought I was good – certainly not broken – and He died for me.

He reached down and demonstrated His love for me.

Not when I was good

Not when I was on the path to being a better person

But while I was broken.

While I was a sinner.

He didn't begin to love when I was led in a prayer by an assistant pastor that Friday afternoon after work

He loved me when I didn't even have a clue who He was

And I had you make a note of the word **sinners** –

Because many have a hard time even admitting they are sinners.

They have reserved that word for murderers, adulterers – really, really bad people.

But the word simply means – to miss the mark.

And it could be someone who is in absolute rebellion toward God

But it could also mean someone who just fell short

So God always initiates

Remember, the reason that we were created was to have fellowship and an intimate relationship with God

God is not going to wait until we, as human beings, make a conscious decision to move away from sin.

The prodigal son didn't go back because he woke up one day and said, "Maybe wasting my inheritance wasn't the best thing to do – I am going back home to live with dad"

He went back to his father because he knew that his dad was merciful and loving and he realized that he was no longer worthy to be called his son.

And when he went back home – the father was there welcoming him with open arms.

That is the point that Paul is making here in Romans 5

God's love for us is not because we are good or because we are valuable.

Rather we are valuable because God loves us.

Our value comes from the fact that God has expended an amazing amount of resources in order to have friendship and fellowship with you and me.

He gave His Son

[1Jo 4:10 NKJV] 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.

And so , because of what we know that God did for us, we respond to His love

God gave His love

We receive His love

And we respond to His love with our service to Him and our dedication of our lives.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Much more then –

Had you make a note of that phrase – this is going to be something that we see Paul use multiple times in our study through Romans

And what Paul is reminding us here is that His love has changed our status

At one time we were an enemy and now we are not an enemy anymore

We have been justified by our faith – we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ

And it is through His blood

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin

We see this back in the Exodus – the blood had to be applied to the doorpost – for the firstborn not to die

And if the blood of Jesus is applied in our lives, then we are not going to die

So here is what Paul is saying

If love drove Jesus to die in our place as our substitute

Then Paul is reasoning here that how much more would He keep us from experiencing His wrath.

He is moving from the greater to the lesser

[1Th 1:10 NKJV] 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, [even] Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

God will judge this world and there is wrath coming.

And there is wrath on people that are living in unrighteousness – we saw this at the beginning of our study through Romans that God's wrath upon the unrighteousness is leaving them to their desires.

But Paul is reassuring the believer that Jesus came to deliver us from God's anger.

We can live in the confidence we'll never, ever be the objects of His wrath.

In the death of Jesus and in the resurrection of Jesus, the consequences of sin are no longer ours.

We will face judgment, but for rewards on how we've used our time, talent, & treasure,

But we'll never face an angry God.

Write this verse down -

[Jhn 5:24 NKJV] 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me **has everlasting life (notice – that is right now. Not will have everlasting life) , and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**

So for the true believer –

We don't have to face the wrath because our wrath was poured upon Jesus on the cross – so that when He died for you and me God's wrath was satisfied in that sacrifice.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, **much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

By the way – this is one of the strongest promises regarding the keeping power of God.

And once again – we have the phrase much more –

So here is what Paul is arguing

And again, he is arguing from the greater to the lesser

If the dying Savior reconciles us to God, then surely a living Savior will keep us reconciled to God.

A dying Jesus saves us – a living Jesus keeps us

If God can bring a sinner to heaven (greater) then certainly God can keep a saint while on the earth

This is the assurance of our salvation

If our sin was not a barrier to the beginning of our salvation how can our sin be a barrier at the completion of our salvation?

It can't!

Remember –

God always finishes what He started

He is the Author and the Finisher of our faith

[Phi 1:6 NKJV] 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete [it] until the day of Jesus Christ;

11 And not only [that], but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

This is the results of experiencing God's love

Joy

This is what the world is missing

Joy is what the gospel produces

Happy are the people whose God is the Lord (Psalm 144:15)

There is no happier people than those people who are right with God, walking with God

If God did all of that – while we were His enemy

How much more will He do for us now that we are His children

Paul wants the believer to experience, not just to know – but to experience in their heart and in their life the freedom and the redemption and a love and assurance that comes from our salvation.

[2Co 5:19 NKJV] 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

That is the message of reconciliation

That God can take broken things and bring them together.

That crippled thing can become restored.

That God sent a Savior who demonstrated His love for you and me on His sacrifice and loved us when we were at our worst, so that He could take us at our worst and turn us into His best.

This is His sacrificial love

His unconditional love

His incomparable love providing salvation from wrath and salvation from ourselves

That's love!!!

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.



CALVARY
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Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Jde 1:24 NKJV] 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present [you] faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

He will never let us go

He will never let us fall

We are in good hands with the Lord

And so – we are to be secure in Him and His love

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

