

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

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.

Love Commended ***Romans 5:6-8***

INTRO:

In **verse 5**, the Apostle Paul ended his discussion of why we can glory in our suffering by telling us that through suffering we experience God's love being poured out in our hearts! ***“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*** Having mentioned the love of God, the Apostle Paul cannot leave it without dwelling on it a little bit. In **verses 6-8**, the Apostle Paul takes this element of God's love like a precious gem and holds it up to the light and turns it around a little bit so that we can fully appreciate the miracle that it is. The concept this whole paragraph revolves around is the beginning phrase of **verse 8**. ***“But God demonstrates His own love toward us.”*** The Greek verb means *“to demonstrate, show, bring out, or prove.”* God love is demonstrated in the objects of His great love for us who know Him as Savior. Paul points out three things about us that demonstrate and prove God's love toward us.

I. God Loved Us When We Were Weak (v. 6)

II. God Loved Us When We Were Ungodly (v. 6-7)

III. God Loved Us When We Were Sinners (v. 8)

I. God Loved Us When We Were Weak (v. 6)

A. First, we discover that the love of God is uniquely demonstrated in that at the time that Jesus died for us, ***“we were still helpless.”***

1. The Greek word rendered ***“helpless”*** means *“helpless, powerless, or without strength.”* He meant our helplessness and hopelessness before Jesus came into our lives.

2. This is a thought we innately find offensive. We pride ourselves as self-sufficient and dependent upon no one. This is why do-it-yourself, religion is so popular. We like to think, even in the area of our relationship with the living God,

we can do it ourselves. The attitude of our sinful souls is best stated in our Lord's diagnosis of the condition of the Laodicean Church in **Revelation 3:17**
“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’; and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

B. How were we helpless? There are three ways in which we are without strength and without hope.

1. First, we are helpless legally. Paul summarized this earlier in Chapter 3.
vs.10-12 ***“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”***

2. Second, we were helpless morally. We could not keep ourselves from sin. Because we are all sinners from our conception, we begin practicing our sinfulness as soon as we get a chance after we are born. The Apostle Paul paints a very disturbing picture of our condition before we are saved in **Titus 3:3**
“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”

Our struggle with sin is not over when we are saved. The process of growing more and more like our Jesus takes time.

3. Finally, we helpless spiritually. The Apostle Paul described it well in **Ephesians 2:1-3**
“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

Except God worked in us. We could not help ourselves. God's love is marvelous because it sent Jesus to die for us when we were yet helpless. At the very appropriate time Christ came and died for us.

II. God Loved Us When We Were Ungodly (v. 6-7)

A. We were ungodly, God loved us and Christ died for us. The Greek word translated ***“ungodly”*** means literally impious, or those who have no use for God. It can imply someone who has contempt for God. We can see a little of the way this word is used by Paul earlier in this epistle. Remember **Romans 1:18?**

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

B. The wonderful truth is that God loved us with an everlasting love not only when we were unable to help ourselves, but more than this, He loved us when we were actively in opposition to God and all for which He stands.

C. To help us understand the wonder of this statement, the Apostle expands on this truth in **verse 7**.

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.”

(1) Suppose there was a righteous man who was supposed to die, who would die in his place? A righteous man is one who is ***“obedient to the law.”*** He stops at every stop sign. He never exceeds the speed limit. Would you die for him? Probably not.

(2) How about for a good man? The word good primarily emphasizes moral uprightness but it includes the idea of warmth and attractiveness. This is a nice person. Would you die for them? Maybe. But we were and are none of these things.

III. God Loved Us When We Were Sinners (v. 8)

A. The wonder of it all is that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. This is the objective proof of God’s love for us. Do we grasp the impact of this statement? Sure we were unable to save ourselves. Yes, we were the ungodly, we who have nothing but contempt for God. Even more than that, we are sinners. We are the embodiment of what God hates. The greatest demonstration of the wonder of God’s love is that when God chose to love us, He chose to love that which He naturally hates.

B. We read such statements like we read in **1 John 4:10**

“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 especially **1 John 3:1**

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”

1. Why is this so important to understand? If we really get our hands around this truth, we understand the reality that our salvation is forever and we can never lose it. If we did nothing to gain God’s love, and God’s great love for each of us is not based on anything we are or can do, then how can we ever lose his love?

2. This is why Paul wrote in **Romans 8:38, 39**

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any

other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Somehow we do not see how difficult the idea of God’s love for us is. We do not deserve it. We are not lovable in ourselves. We are the very essence of the sin that God hates and cannot look upon. Because God holy He has to condemn sinners. However, God is also love. Because He is love He chose to love us and to make a way that we could be delivered from our sinful estate.

Memorize **Romans 5:8**

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

So that when Satan comes to tell you God doesn’t really love you, you can quote this verse to him and say see He really does.

Hymn #579 ***Jesus loves Me***