

## ➤ God's Timely Love (6)

- You see points backwards supporting the statement Paul has just made in v. 5: *And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*
  - o Initially Paul is telling the reader, "you can be sure God knows and will be timely about helping you in your trial because he was timely with your helpless, sinful state with the cross."
  - o We trust God's timing in trials just as God saved us at the right time.
- *still powerless or weak, helpless*
  - o We also were powerless when Christ died for us. What did we do to contribute to our salvation? It was all God.
- *at just the right time (kairon); lit. "according to the time"; NASB has the true word order: Rom 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ (Messiah) died for the ungodly.*
  - o What was the right time for Jesus to die for us? "When we were powerless." We couldn't redeem or save ourselves.
  - o God took the initiative. The cross was entirely his act.
  - o So what was the right time period? When we were UN-godly – not like God or wanting Him or a God lifestyle: *Christ died for the ungodly.*
  - o We do not – cannot – earn God's love by good behavior.
  - o We were not only helpless and powerless to save ourselves, we were antigod.

## ➤ God's Demonstrated Love (7-8)

- Dying for someone else is rare. Sometimes people might die for a good person.
- It was while we were still sinners, enemies of the state of heaven, that Christ died.
  - o I didn't even know Christ but he knew me and died for me.
- But how can we be sure of his love? He demonstrated it.
  - o *sunistesin – the put together for show, to demonstrate*
  - o "the exhibit, to give evidence." The cross is his billboard of love.
  - o There is no love like this in all the universe – it is uniquely God's love, a mystery that we cannot comprehend.
- How do we know Christ died for us? Where is the evidence?
  - o There is no doubt both from Scripture and from external writings that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified.
  - o All of the disciples were willing to die rather than deny Jesus for us. All of the early Christians.
  - o It is estimated that 70 million Christians have been martyred, killed for believing in Jesus' death for us.

## ➤ God's Reconciling Love (9-10)

- Here we see God's amazing love in the cross – *justified by his blood!* We have been justified with continuing effect.
  - o Jesus' blood makes us right: "Just-as-if-I-never-sinned."
  - o This reminds us of the first Passover

- And when Jesus celebrated the Passover meal
- Why a blood sacrifice? Our life is in our blood.
- He was the Lamb of God, the final sacrifice who took away our sin.
- Now the future begins – *how much more shall we* (twice in 9 and 10)
  - This whole verse parallels the previous one.
  - It's so important, Paul says the same thing twice: "since...then" and "if...then" and "how much more", interchanging "justified" and "reconciled."
  - Paul goes beyond being saved from judgement to our forever life with God.
- Saved from wrath – any judgement
  - God's final judgement is coming.
  - God's wrath isn't explosive, out-of-control anger, but patient, planned justice.
  - Yet we wonder, are there any lingering indictments?
  - Something the courts of heaven are going to find about us?
  - But we will not face that wrath but see the face of our loving Father because of Jesus.
- *For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him* (v 10)
  - Enemies – We were not at peace with God but were fighting all He stood for. Our will versus God's will.
  - He sacrificed His life while we were still enemies.
  - Jesus didn't wait for us to change. He bought our peace with His own blood, His very life, to reconcile us to God.
  - This is not a mere truce – meeting halfway or 50/50.
  - God displayed his love on the cross. The cross not only displays God's love but the enormity of our sin.
  - Reconciliation means I now want what God wants. Our relationship is changed.

➤ **God's Insuring Love for the Future (10b-11)**

- *How much more...shall we be saved through his life* (10).
  - What's the "how much more" part? Where we are guaranteed resurrection life!
  - We inherit. Jesus' resurrected life.
  - The word "saved" is also used twice and deserves more attention.
  - The NT teaches all 3 tenses for salvation: we were, we are, and shall be saved. Paul mostly uses the future tense as he does here.
  - This is our future, to be held firmly in God's love forever. Never again separated by sin and darkness.
- *Not only is this so, but we also boast (exult, glory in, celebrate) in God.*
  - We are not left on the defense trying to survive trials and trying to believe.
  - We are confident – celebrating – dancing in God. We join in the celebration of the Prodigal being welcomed home.
- *Why? Through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received reconciliation.*
  - Jesus did it! It's one thing to know and propositionally: Christ died for you – do you believe?
  - It's another thing to know personally that it's because of the cross that you know his love is *displayed* for you!