

Romans

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish
August 28, 2024
Romans 5:6-11



Vss. 6-8

- John 3:16 tells us that “For God so loved the world, that He gave...”. The proof of God’s love is the purpose for which God gave. God’s only Son went to the cross and died to fulfill God’s purpose for giving Him. On the cross Jesus took the sins of the world on Himself. As a poet has said, “I had a debt I could not pay. He paid a debt He did not owe”.
- Humanity has never given much thought to sin. It’s always been so easy to justify our actions and thoughts, so easy to rationalize them all off, so easy to compare ourselves to others arguing that at least we’re better than *they* are. And we tend to grade our sins, the 7 Deadly Sins for example. If your sin came in at #8 then surely you were ok. For centuries before the Protestant Reformation in the 1500’s, all one needed to do, if one was even concerned about sin, was to go to confession and perhaps pay or perform some small penance and all was forgiven, no questions asked. Even after the Reformation, to a large degree sin fell through the cracks. Except for those crazy Baptists, people were baptized as infants and were taught that as long as they went through confirmation classes at age 12, they were saved. Many taught that sin really didn’t matter, because if you were one of the elect then you were forgiven and if you weren’t of the elect you were bound for Hell anyway. By treating sin so lightly for so many centuries, the church opened the door for the modern world’s many inhumanities and world-wide secularization.
- But simply ignoring or minimizing sin in our own minds does not negate sin’s deadly poison. Recall Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. We were all sinners. We were all counted among the “ungodly”. We were all “helpless”. And it was here, when we are at our worse, that Christ died for us. It was here, while we are in open rebellion against God, Christ died for us. It was here, while we are utterly undeserving, that God demonstrates His own love for us.
- Paul tries to never miss an opportunity to show how different God’s ways are from our own. He points out that for us, it would be very hard, downright heroic, to die for someone else, even a really good person. But to die for someone who is ungodly, a really bad person? Good luck

finding that person! But what Paul wants us to see is dying to save a really bad person is exactly what Christ did, and Paul wants you to see clearly that YOU are the really bad person for whom Christ died. That is how much God loves YOU!

Vss. 9-11

- But in truth, Paul says, God loves you even more than that! Christ took away our sin on the cross. Now that we are free of sin, we can stand justified before the throne of God. Even more, we are now reconciled with God. Reconciliation cannot fully take place until the wounded party fully forgives the one who did the wounding. So not only are we free of sin, but we have been fully forgiven, so that we do not stand before God as vanquished enemies, but as reconciled friends. But there's even more! Not only are we free from sin and reconciled to God, we are also adopted sons and daughters. Because God demonstrates His love for us through the death of His only Son, we are now rightfully called the Children of God, with Christ as our brother and God as our Father (1 John 3:2).
- But there's still more! We are "saved by His life"! In Ephesians 3:16 we find by being made God's Children, we who were weak are now "strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner person". What does it mean to become part of someone's family? Well, you are expected to walk, talk, speak, act, **BE** like the family! Being saved by His life means that our old ungodly, weak, and sinful way of living is over and we are strengthened and taught how to live a new way, how to live like Jesus, how to be perfect as our Father is perfect.
- And the result of this is that "we exult in God through our Lord Jesus". Over time as we look back on how far we've come, on how our life has changed from what it was to what it has become, from a track which we could see wasn't going to end well to a path that ends with Christ in glory, all we can do is to thank God.
- There is a horribly false view of God that has been around for a long, long time that suggests God is that angry god who sits on a cloud with lightening bolts in his hand, just waiting to zap you. So the church developed myths about Mary and called her the Mother of God, reasoning that if the Father is angry, we need a Mother who is loving. And we developed a false view of "Jesus Meek and Mild", so He would not be angry and more approachable as well. What Paul wants us to rightly see is that John is spot on correct when he says, "God is Love". William Barclay sums it up by saying, "Jesus did not come to change God's attitude to men; He came to show what it is and always was. He came to prove unanswerably that God is love".