

Romans: Unashamed; the righteous shall live by faith

**Romans 5:5-11 prt 15**

**MPS: The love of God gives us a life of goodness**

INTRO:

Prayer Nights:

September 18

October 23

November 20

- We will have a joint youth/adult worship time with prayer to follow on Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.

OPEN:

How many of you want a good life?

- Mental experiment: Your very rich aunt passed away and left you an inheritance. She left you 10 million dollars. Think how that would impact your life for a minute.
- Now, what if I told you there were some stipulations – Read your Bible everyday, Pray for 15 minutes in the morning and 15 at night, attend your community group 75% of the time and attend at least 43 Sunday gatherings a year.
- Would you do it? Be honest.
- It seems like that 10 mil would produce a good life, right?
- Money is powerless to save you and unable to love you.
- Isn't it wild almost all of us would do spiritual things for out of our love of mammon – but we struggle to do those things out of our love for God.
- We keep falling for lesser loves that promise to change the temporary when the whole time there is a greater love that changes everything – the now and what's to come.

**The love of God gives us a life of goodness**

- No strings attached... receive it with joy

**1. God SHOWS us He loves us.**

*Vs 5-8 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right*

*time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- The verb “poured out” is used elsewhere of the spilling of wine (Luke 5:37), the shedding of Christ’s blood (Matthew 26:28), and of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 10:45).

Paul gives us two evidences of this Love He shows

- a. Experiential evidence – the Holy Spirit has been poured in our hearts

From killer to kind  
From murderer to meek  
From selfish to selfless  
From restless to restful

The famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837–99) knew precisely what Paul meant. Moody was always reluctant to speak of what occurred, but conceded to give the following brief account:

“... one day, in the city of New York—oh, what a day!—I can’t describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name.... I can only say that God revealed himself to me, and I had such an experience of his love that I had to ask him to stay his hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world—it would be small dust in the balance.”

- It’s also important to note that Paul uses the perfect tense of the verb.
- In other words, God’s love doesn’t leak! Unlike the waters of Noah that receded after a time, God’s love remains perpetually at flood stage in our souls!
- This love is not for everyone in general but for *you* in particular.

- b. Historical evidence vs 6-8

*6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- God's love doesn't float free from a historical anchor.
- It has been demonstrated in history. The historical proof is a Roman cross.
- We know God's love because of the Spirit's work within us, and because we know what happened at Golgotha.

Joe Rogan podcast  
With Ricky Elizondo's help ...

- Christianity is not like other religions in their claims of deity or inspiration

**Buddhism**- relies on the claims of the Buddha on his moment of enlightenment under a tree.

**Islam** - The angel Gabriel spoke to the prophet Muhammed the very words of God.

**Christianity** - Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. He lived, died, and was resurrected on the 3rd day in Palestine.

- Jesus' life, miracles, claims, death, & resurrection are not based on a lone spiritual insight (Buddhism), or a private talk from the angel Gabriel (Islam), but a series of events that took place in public and datable time recorded by a variety of witnesses.
- The central claim of Christianity in the New Testament is testable and worth exploring rather than dismissing outright.
- There are methods to test historical events within Jesus life.
- Both scholars and average joes look for independent historical records matching the claims of Jesus life. One of the main methods is looking for historical writings free of impure motives.
- Josephus was a first century Jewish historian. A low observant Jewish aristocrat; not a follower of Christ. in his Antiquities of the Jews, written in about 93AD, he wrote, "Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works-a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure." He not only mentions Jesus twice in his writings, but also John the Baptist.
- Roman historian Tacitus' reference to Christ in his writings sometime between 110 and 120ad. "This name"—referring to the name Christian—"originates from 'Christus'"—which is the Latin form of Christ—"who was sentenced to death by the procurator, Pontius Pilate, during the reign of (Emperor) Tiberius. This detestable superstition which had been suppressed for a while spread anew, not only in Judaea where the evil
- People who claim or even question that Jesus didn't even exist are either:
  - Uniformed – they don't know how to find this evidence OR they have believed others who've been dishonest.
  - Lying by being intellectually dishonest
- God is not distant or remote, but full of love and involved, personally involved.

“Your steadfast love is greater than life.” (Psa 63) He is willing to give you everything when you deserve nothing.

- God is reminding us today that living on lesser loves is futile and joyless.

## 2. God ASSURES us of salvation

**Vs 9-10** *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

- He's moving from the present difficult to the future easy.
- If God has done that which is hard - put forward Jesus to die for his enemies - will he not save us from the wrath of God, and if God has reconciled us verse 10, when we were his enemies, will he not save us now that we are his family?

Reconciliation – The removal of enmity and the restoration of fellowship between two parties.

## 3. God's love leads us to REJOICE in His blessings.

**Vs 11** *More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

- Reconciliation – The removal of enmity [hostility] and the restoration of fellowship between two parties.
- To overcome our separation from God, we needed someone to provide reconciliation and thereby bring us back into fellowship with God.

Mephibosheth (from the mouth of shame)

Mephibosheth was Saul's grandson and Jonathan's son.

He was dropped at 5 and the fall caused him to be crippled

David in 1Sam 9 wants to show kindness to someone in Saul's household

David displayed Behavior contrary to the practices of the time - instead of seeking to eliminate a descendant of the former Dynasty he sought to honor him and act with Mercy towards this descendant

Mephibosheth was the one who was chosen

He sat at the king's table

To dine at the king's table is an honor; it is to enjoy the favor, protection, prosperity and power of the king

He was carried into the palace  
He wasn't sitting on an ottoman, but in a seat  
He wasn't sitting there as a misfit, the king wanted him there  
He didn't have to eat crumbs from the table, but ate along with the king the richest of foods  
with an honor higher than any in the land.  
When at the table, his brokenness was hidden

- This was indeed Reconciliation – The removal of enmity and the restoration of fellowship between two parties.
- AND this is our story. We are not David in this story – we are Mephibosheth. Broken from the fall, unworthy to be in a palace, unfathomable to be at the King's table.
- He wants you there. He is glad you are there. He went far out of his way to get you there.
- At the King's table, you are not a broken mess but a distinguished guest.
- You can fellowship with the King, you can be nourished with the finest of spiritual food, and there is always a spot for you there
- That's the love of God on display. He has reconciled you and invited you in.

What do we do when we are blessed with such a love? We rejoice.

## CONCLUSION

- God's love is greater than our lesser loves
- Living on lesser loves is futile, living on God's Love is greater

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## QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

1. Do you believe God loves you?
2. What are the evidences that he DOES love you?
3. What do you do – how do you live as a person loved by God?