

# ***THE LOVE THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING!!!***

## **There's Nothing Like It - Bible Study Series Section IV - Week 1**

### **Scriptural Lesson**

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup> And patience, experience; and experience, hope: <sup>5</sup> And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. <sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But*

**God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

*<sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. (Romans 5:1–11, KJV 1900)*

- I. Introduction.....This Bible Study Lesson will begin with two very important concepts
  - A. A PRINCIPLE that you should never forget and a PRACTICAL story that I hope you will always remember
    1. Here's the PRINCIPLE: love that cannot endure being tested should not be trusted. In short, real love endures. Real love keeps on loving when love makes no sense at all. If you lie on love, it forgives you. If you betray love, it gives you another chance. If you hate love, it loves you in return. If you nail love to a tree alive, it dies in your place and rises again only to give you more grace! Love is

powerful! It is the most powerful expression of who God is on the earth. This is because love is not only what God does. Love is who God is!

2. Now here's the practical story. There was a young man who found himself in more trouble than he could handle. What started as small compromises turned into major consequences. One bad decision led to another, and before long, he was standing in a courtroom facing charges that could cost him everything: his fate, his future, and his freedom.

The evidence was overwhelming. Every witness pointed at him. Every record confirmed it. His guilt wasn't questionable. It was undeniable. His head hung low because he knew... "I did it."

The judge began to read the charges, one after another. With every word, the weight grew heavier. The prosecutor stood confidently with a smirk on his face, ready to secure the conviction. It looked like the case was already decided.

But just as the judge was about to render the sentence and the verdict, the courtroom doors opened. In walked a man unlike any other man in the courtroom. He was calm, composed, yet carrying an authority that shifted the atmosphere. He didn't rush. He didn't panic. He simply walked down the aisle and stood right next to the guilty man.

The prosecutor stepped back. The room fell silent. The man spoke and said, "Your Honor, I will stand with him." The judge looked puzzled. "Stand with him? You do understand the charges, don't you?" The gentleman replied, "Yes, I understand them fully. And I also understand the cost. But I will take his place." The judge looked shocked and immediately called for a recess. The judge disappeared into his chambers with the man that had just walked in.

A few minutes later they both returned to the courtroom and the judge reconvened the hearing. He had the man who had just walked in listen to all of the charges that the young man was facing. Before anyone could object, the man stepped forward and said, "Every charge, place it on me. Every penalty, assign it to me. Every consequence, let me bear it."

The courtroom was stunned. The guilty man looked up in disbelief. "Why would you do this for me?" he asked. The man turned and said, "Because Father told me about your situation and told me what you needed was someone to love you in a way that you have not been loved before. So I volunteered myself for the assignment. And, just in case you're wondering, my dad is the judge on that bench. When we get through with this courtroom today the world will know that real love changes everything! You will be a free man! Free from the punishment, penalty, payment, and presence of everything you've done wrong!

In that moment, the judge winked at His Son, struck the gavel and declared in conclusion "Case dismissed!"

Now here's the shout, the young man was not innocent! He was guilty, but someone else took his place. Can you see this in your mind? Can you hear it with your heart? Can you feel the love in this moment of sacrifice in your soul?

- B. With this in mind, welcome to Romans, the love letter written by the Apostle Paul that would change the world like no other letter would dare do
1. In Romans 1:16-17 Paul declares that he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  2. In chapter 2 the great Apostle says that ".....we are without excuse."
  3. Chapter 3:23 makes it clear that "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

4. In Romans 4 Paul highlights the Patriarch Abraham and how his faith in the Lord is what saved him and how imputation actually works (4:22-26).
5. In 5:1, Paul argues emphatically that we are justified (dikayao) by faith. And through faith comes peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The term peace is the kicker. It's the Greek term irene' and it this passage the halt of war or a cease fire on the field of combat. You cannot shout about that unless you come to grips with the fact that your enemy was not the devil, it was God.
6. When Paul gets to verse 2 the blessing is now that the war is over and peace is now present we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice to the glory of God. In short, access has been granted for you to get to God! You'll never shout about access granted until you realize that access had previously been denied.
7. This is the twist in the passage. Paul says we glory in tribulations also. God lets me go through stuff but it is for my good and for my growth. Tribulations produces patience (retranslating my tight spots are uncomfortable but they make me tough). And my toughness produces my hope and my hope makes me bold!
8. By the time he gets to verse 6 he's about to throw a ball of blessing your way that will knock it out of the park. He says "For when we were yet without strength (not able to pull ourselves out of the ditch that sin had put us in Christ died for us. He then does a qualitative comparison. He says scarcely for a righteous (a holy morally upright) man would one die. For a good man (a joker who has a bad and good mixed up in him) one would even dare to die. **BUT GOD COMMENDED HIS LOVE TOWARD US IN THAT WHILE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US!**

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C. The Problem That We Face - We Keep Looking for Love In All  
The Wrong Places.....Think about it for a  
moment.....SOMETIMES WE LOOK FOR LOVE

In other people, and forget people are limited while God is  
limitless.

In relationships, and end up broken because we expected  
someone to be what only God can be to us and for us.

In attention, but attention fades when the moment shifts to someone else I  
the room.

In approval, and lose ourselves trying to please everybody else.

In social media, counting likes like they equal love and they don't.

In popularity, but popularity doesn't mean that other people care about you  
at all.

In success, thinking achievement will fill personal emotional emptiness.

In money, knowing that money can buy a lot of things, but it will never buy  
love.

In possessions, and still feel empty in a full house.

In status, but titles don't hug you at night.

In romance without commitment, and end up with connection but  
no covering.

In physical intimacy, but confuse sex with true love.

In toxic relationships, hoping pain will turn into passion.

In people who don't love God, and wonder why they don't know  
how to love you.

In our past, trying to relive what God already released.

In validation from broken people, and get wounded by wounded people trying to make unhappy people happy.

In ignorant comparisons, by measuring yourself against others will always keep you coming up short.

In perfection, but perfection is pressure, not peace.

In control, but control is nothing more than fear pretending to be strong.

In independence, but God didn't design you to live disconnected from everybody.

In the world, but the world can't give what it didn't create.

And sometimes, we look for love in everything temporary, while ignoring the One who is eternal. Have you ever been guilty of this before in your lifetime?

However, here's the truth, You can search high...

You can search low...

You can search wide...

You can search long...

But until you find love in Jesus Christ, you'll keep looking in all the wrong places.

This is the core, crux and center of this lesson!

**HIS LOVE IS THE LOVE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!**

- D. Moment of Personal Reflection: Where are some places you have looked for love before and did not find it? Be honest.

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In what ways has the love of Jesus Christ changed things for you?

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- E. Purpose for the lesson: So then, what does Romans 5:8 offer that should press you walk in the love of the Lord in such a way that it changes everything?

## II. HIS LOVE TRANSITIONS YOU FROM WHAT WAS, TO WHAT'S ABOUT TO BECOME

- A. Practical Idea-God meets you where you, but He does not leave you where He found you! He transitions you from where you are to where He is taking you!
- B. Principle- Hear the first two words of the passage "BUT GOD"
1. In the Greek construction, this phrase introduces a divine interruption, a reversal of an expected outcome. It is a contrastive conjunction *de* attached to *theos*, signaling that what follows is not based on human condition, but divine decision.
  2. Here's what "BUT GOD" means exegetically:
    - It interrupts human ruin with divine rescue
    - It overrules what should have happened
    - It reverses the direction of the whole story
    - It introduces grace where judgment was deserved
  3. Paul sets up the tension: "while we were yet sinners..."  
That's our condition: fallen, guilty, undeserving
  4. But then, our favorite two words, "BUT GOD..."
    - That means: You were guilty... BUT GOD
    - You were condemned... BUT GOD
    - You were lost... BUT GOD
  5. Keep this in mind, this is not man reaching up to God! This is God stepping down to man.
- C. Application-In this stead, every redeemed believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has a story that described what life was like before meeting the Lord. And, it should sound like this:

- I was drowning in sin... BUT GOD pulled me out
- I was headed in the wrong direction... BUT GOD redirected my life
- I was bound by addiction... BUT GOD broke the chains
- I was stuck in depression... BUT GOD lifted my spirit
- I was overwhelmed with anxiety... BUT GOD gave me peace
- I was financially struggling... BUT GOD made a way
- I was rejected by people... BUT GOD accepted me
- I was overlooked... BUT GOD chose me
- I was weak... BUT GOD strengthened me
- I was sick... BUT GOD healed me
- I was confused... BUT GOD gave me clarity
- I was lost... BUT GOD found me
- I was guilty... BUT GOD forgave me
- I was broken... BUT GOD restored me
- I was fearful... BUT GOD gave me courage
- I was stuck in my past... BUT GOD gave me a future
- I was empty... BUT GOD filled me
- I was wandering... BUT GOD guided me
- I was counted out... BUT GOD counted me in
- I was nothing... BUT GOD made me something

D. Philosophy: God's love is not merely emotional, it is transformational and redemptive. Now here's the shout, it does not affirm your condition, it alters it! It does not leave you in sin, it lifts you from it!

It does not excuse you, it changes you. This is the doctrine of grace: You were one thing...BUT GOD made you more like Him!

E. Biblical Illustration-Mark 5 | The story of the Demoniac

*And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. <sup>2</sup>And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>3</sup>Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: <sup>4</sup>Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. <sup>5</sup>And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup>But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, <sup>7</sup>And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. <sup>8</sup>*



### III. HIS LOVE TAKES YOUR LIFE TO A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL

- A. Practical Idea-God's love doesn't just improve your life, it elevates your life. When His love enters your story, you don't stay on the same level of thinking, living, or becoming. His love lifts you from survival to purpose, from brokenness to wholeness, and from limitation to divine possibility.
- B. Principle-In Romans 5:8, the phrase "*Christ died for us*" reveals the depth and direction of God's love.
1. The word "for" (*hyper*) means: on behalf of, in place of, for the benefit of. This means:
  2. Jesus didn't just die near you...He died for you
  3. He didn't just suffer with you...He suffered instead of you
  4. So when God's love shows up:
    - It substitutes your condition
    - It elevates your position
    - It transforms your identity
  5. Now here's the shout, you were:
    - sinner, now saved
    - condemned, now covered
    - far, now brought near
  6. That's not improvement...That's elevation
- C. Application-The wonderful news that this lesson presents shouts at those who know what God's love is like first hand, that the Lord's love is taking you to a whole different level.....
1. **From confusion to clarity**  
 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..." (1 Corinthians 14:33)
  2. **From fear to faith**  
 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)
  3. **From guilt to grace**  
 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1)
  4. **From bondage to freedom**  
 "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."  
 (St. John 8:36)

5. **From shame to confidence**

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...”  
(Hebrews 4:16)

6. **From rejection to acceptance**

“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” (Ephesians 1:6)

7. **From brokenness to healing**

“He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.”  
(Psalm 147:3)

8. **From weakness to strength**

“My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

9. **From emptiness to fulfillment**

“And ye are complete in him...” (Colossians 2:10)

10. **From wandering to purpose**

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord... to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

11. **From insecurity to identity**

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...” (1 John 3:1)

12. **From anxiety to peace**

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

13. **From despair to hope**

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...”  
(Romans 15:13)

14. **From failure to favor**

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again...”  
(Proverbs 24:16)

15. **From defeat to victory**

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

16. **From darkness to light**

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” (Colossians 1:13)

17. **From loneliness to relationship**

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” (John 14:18)

18. **From striving to resting in God**

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (St. Matthew 11:28)

19. **From being overlooked to being chosen**

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you...” (John 15:16)

20. **From what you were... to what God is making you**

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- D. Philosophy-God’s love is not designed to keep you comfortable, it is designed to make you conformable to His will. It doesn’t just meet you where you are, it moves you to where God wants you to be. With this in mind, the love of God is:
1. Redemptive because it rescues
  2. Transformational because it changes
  3. Progressive because it keeps molding you into the image of Jesus Christ

4.

So the philosophy is: If God’s love is in your life, elevation is inevitable!

- E. Biblical Illustration-Luke 15:11-24 (The story of the Prodigal son)

*<sup>11</sup> And he said, A certain man had two sons: <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. <sup>13</sup> And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent all, there*

arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. <sup>15</sup> And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup> And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. <sup>17</sup> And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, <sup>19</sup> And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. <sup>20</sup> And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: <sup>23</sup> And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: <sup>24</sup> For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:11–24, KJV 1900)

1. The prodigal son left home and lowered himself:
  - lost his inheritance
  - lost his identity
  - ended up feeding swine
2. He went from:
  - Being a son, to being a servant, to barely surviving
3. But when he returned...the father's love elevated him
  - He put a robe on his back
  - He placed a ring on his hand
  - He provided shoes for his feet
  - He didn't come back as a servant...
4. He was restored as a son!

F. Practical Illustration-The story of Richard Jefferson Jackson (Rilo)

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IV. **HIS LOVE TOPS ANYTHING OFFERED BY EVERYONE ELSE**

A. Practical Idea-There is no love greater than the love that gives itself for you. People may promise you love, show you love, or even feel love for you, but only Jesus proved His love by dying for you. His love doesn't compete, it simply surpasses any other love you will ever know or encounter.

- B. Principle-These last four words carry the full weight of the Gospel:
1. "Christ died for us" Christ (Christos)-The Anointed One, the chosen Savior
  2. Died (apothnēskō) a real, sacrificial death, not symbolic, but substitutionary
  3. For (hyper) on behalf of, in place of, for the benefit of
  4. Us, the guilty, the undeserving, the sinful. This is substitutionary atonement:
    - He took what we deserved
    - He stood where we should have stood
    - He paid what we could not pay
    - What makes this love unmatched?
    - It was given freely
    - It was given fully
    - It was given finally
  5. No one else:
    - died for your sins
    - paid your full debt
    - secured your eternal future
  6. That means: His love is not comparable... it is incomparable
- C. Application-Here's the shout of the day.....

- People may leave you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may fail you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may forget you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may betray you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may misunderstand you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may walk away... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may stop loving you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may use you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may hurt you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- People may abandon you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Money can't love you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Success can't save you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Fame can't fulfill you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Pleasure can't keep you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Power can't complete you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Your past can't define you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Your mistakes can't hold you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Your guilt can't condemn you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Your failures can't finish you... BUT CHRIST DIED FOR YOU
- Your sin couldn't stop Him... BECAUSE CHRIST DIED FOR YOU

D. Philosophy-God's love is not measured by what it says...It is measured by what it sacrifices.

1. The cross proves:
2. Love is not a feeling, it is a finished work
3. Love is not temporary, it is eternal
4. Love is not conditional, it is covenantal
5. So the philosophy is: If Christ died for you, nothing else can outdo what He has already done for you



You can search long...

But you'll never find a love like this:

A love that died for you

A love that stayed for you

A love that paid for you

Because at the end of the day:

People may try...

The world may offer...

But nothing.....

AND I MEAN NOTHING.....

tops the love of Jesus Christ....HIS LOVE CHANGED EVERYTHING!

#### B Never Forget This Principle

Here's the PRINCIPLE: love that cannot endure being tested should not be trusted. In short, real love endures. Real love keeps on loving when love makes no sense at all. If you lie on love, it forgives you. If you betray love, it gives you another chance. If you hate love, it loves you in return. If you nail love to a tree alive, it dies in your place and rises again only to give you more grace! Love is powerful! It is the most powerful expression of who God is on the earth. This is because love is not only what God does. Love is who God is!

Hold On To This Portrait.....

One day you will meet God face to face. It will be a courtroom scene like none other. Satan, the accuser of the brethren will be standing up as the prosecutor telling the judge why you should spend eternity in hell. The courtroom doors will open and your lawyer will walk in. You will know who He is because He will be the one with holes in His hands. When it is your time to speak He will stand and declare to the court, "Your honor I have already paid the price for this one over 2,000 years ago on a hill called Calvary!"

And with justice in one hand and grace in the other the judge will declare this that day over your life in a love that changed everything for you.....CASE DISMISSED!