

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 3

No 8

Exploring the Love of God.

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:6-11

We left off last day having introduced the subject of God's love as the fourth great storehouse of God hidden in Christ, for the new Christian. Today we pick up that theme and explore some of the riches that await those who live in His love.

First, the Big Picture of God's love.

Paul returns to the theme in the closing verses of this section in Romans 8:39.

God's love is a parenthesis which encloses all His dealing with and provision for His people. All that happens to His own occurs only in the greatness of His heart. (Also 2 Thessalonians 3:5.)

The love of God is best understood against the backdrop of the judgment of God. To the Lord Jesus these two themes were the most important:

But woe to you, Pharisees! for you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs (minding the minimal), and pass over judgment and the love of God: these you ought to have done, but not leave the other undone. Luke 11:42.

Apart from the love of God in Christ, all stand in jeopardy of His judgment.

Second, Consider the Desperate

State of Our Waywardness. If we are to appreciate the enormity of what God has done for us we need to understand the pitiful state of our former position. Paul uses four words to describe the urgency and desperation of our need. Before we believed in God's message and in faith trusted His offer of justification we were:

Powerless or Sick v6 "When we were still powerless-NIV, weakness-NASB, without strength-AV, 'utterly helpless'-LB. These words are translated from one meaning to be physically or morally

weak or ill. The effect of sin in the soul is like the effect of disease upon the body. The victim is left powerless, unable to care for himself. We shall see why in our next study.

Ungodly v6 or the Irreverent. Remember in Romans 1:21 the slide into all kinds of hard to imagine sin began when men who knew God excluded Him from their affections. Christ came specifically to die for the ungodly Romans 5:6. Godliness is holding God in high regard, giving Him a proper place in our affection. Worship is not an act only, it is an attitude, a respect, a longing or desire which tends to mould actions and set directions. Godliness leads to righteousness, ungodliness to sin.

Sinners v8. This means an act of disobedience. It is the next step from ungodliness. If we esteem God lightly we will have no regard for His nature, His holiness. Thus there is no moral restraint and people feel free to enter into every unclean thing. Read Romans 1:18-22 or today's news-paper. It is all in our world, our society and it is sin.

Sin is not only the ugly things like rape and murder, but the things we enjoy on our TV. You will be surprised at some of the things on the list. 1 Corinthians 6:9&10. Want some more, Galatians 5:10-21. Read about it in your Bible.

Enemies v10 This describes an attitude of hatred and hostility. More than ever

today in western society people are exhibiting this characteristic, open hostility toward God, His word, His people, His work and His gospel, indeed all things of His. It is the culmination of ungodliness of heart, and a life given to sin.

Yet it is the helpless sick, the irreverent, lawless enemies whom God loves and for whom Jesus died. And such were we. Such is the nature of God.

Third Consider the Blessedness of His Love that We Enjoy. Just as there are four words to describe our former condition, so four words describe our transformation. Each is supported by an preposition and indirect object.

We are:

Justified by His Blood v9. 'By' is from the Greek *en* meaning 'in' and not 'by' as in most Bibles. It is a word of location. Justification is in the sphere of His blood. There is no justification of the sinner anywhere else. Justification means to assume the guilty to be righteous. The sacrifice of Christ alone brings men into line with God's holy nature.

Saved from Wrath v9. 'From' is translated from *apo* meaning as here 'removed from'. We are saved, or rescued, being distanced from God's

wrath. Again a word of location indicating physical removal. The word 'wrath' is literally 'the wrath' that is the punishment reserved for sinful men, the lake of fire, the bottomless pit. Those who have been redeemed by Christ's blood are isolated from wrath. Rejoice in knowing that the issue is already resolved.

Reconciled to God v10. 'Reconciled' means to 'make to agree'. It derives from the idea 'to change or exchange'. It is not God who needs to change, it is we. Accountants reconcile two accounts by identifying anomalies thus making the accounts balance.' I balance my cheque book to the bank's statement. By God's love and care, we are brought into conformity with the perfection that is in Him.

Paul says that we have received this reconciliation v11. We did not achieve it. God in Christ did it all.

Saved through (or by) His Life v10.

Through as given by most newer translations is from the word *en* or 'in' again, indicating a place or location. We are justified in His death, but we are saved or rescued in His life. Read John 17:20-26 and meditate on it, for this is a summary of the saving life of Christ, our union with God through Jesus Christ. We in Him v21 and He in us v23. See also John 14:20. It is God's passion and purpose to be one with His people.

A life of continual rejoicing v11. Nothing else can give us a joy like this, knowing that we are reconciled to God, no longer an enemy but a friend, one in Him. Let the joy of this great fact take hold of your heart and enjoy God's great love, live in it, rejoice in it, for it is truly transforming. Then thank Him for it over and over again. This is true worship. It is true godliness.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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