

Romans #11
Love's Deliverance
Romans 5:6-11

In our last study we looked at some of the results of justification. In verse 5 we were told "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us." We talked about the fact that God pours out His very own love to a lost and dying world through those of us that are saved.

This week we are to look at Love's Deliverance. A.W. Tozer, who probably forgot more about God than I will ever know, struggled to explain God's love as well. He addressed God's love in way, "I can no more do justice to this awesome and wonderfilled truth than a child can grasp a star. Still, by reaching toward the star the child may call attention to it and even indicate the direction one must look to see it. And so, I stretch my heart toward the high, shining love of God so that we may be encouraged to look up and have hope."

The Bible clearly teaches that love is the supreme expression of God's personhood and flows out of His goodness. It affects all His other attributes.

I John 4:6 says, "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us." We have heard sermons about it, we have read books about it, and we have even told others about it, but if we could ever fully embrace it, it would totally change everything about us, and everything around us.

When you think about it, God's love is the only reason we exist. His power is the how of creation, but His love is the why. Love demands an object and you and I are the focus of God's affection. **Love flows from Him as a pure river of grace and mercy without detracting in any way from His holiness and righteousness.** As we understand and experience His love, we find that this attribute is a doorway to knowing God intimately.

Paul said it this way in verse 6, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." **It was the love of God that caused Jesus to lay down His life for us and to experience for Himself all the pains and weaknesses we experience.** It is that love that says to us, even when we feel so unworthy, "Come to Me all you that labor and are heavy laden." It is that same love that invites us to "Come boldly to the throne of grace that you may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Think about this. God is in love with you, so in love, He has given you everything He has. He has given you all the *healing*, all the *wisdom*, all the *wealth*, and all the *strength* you could ever need.

Some are thinking, "But what about my terrible past?" Look again at verse 8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Ladies and gentlemen, it is *not* about your sin; it was *never* about your sin; it was about His *love*.

You might be thinking, "But if it had not been for sin there would not have been a need for the cross." It is true that on the cross Jesus paid the price for sin, but 1 Peter 1: 18-20 gives us this insight, "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." **Before there was ever a world with a garden called Eden, before there was ever a**

man and woman called Adam and Eve, before there was ever the disobedience that caused the fall of man, the love of God was already at work! You see; it has *always* been about His love.

Unfortunately, the history of humanity is strewn with rebellion and failure. Finally, Isaiah 53:6 paints this bleak picture, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." In Romans 3:11-12 Paul draws this conclusion, "There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one."

But in the midst of the darkness comes a ray of light, a gleam of hope, for when God looked down on our world of sin and shame, it was love that motivated Him toward salvation. And we are told in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." And that, my dear friend, is why we can read Romans 5:6 tonight, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." The center of God's love message to us is found in 1 John 4: 10, "For herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he first loved us, and gave his son to be a propitiation for our sins and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world."

On Calvary's Cross Jesus met every demand of a holy and just God, and redemption's price was paid. But even in that great act of love, that cost Heaven's Best His life, God did not even demand any change in our hateful attitude. He never asked us to stop and pray. **He never demanded church membership.** He just "demonstrated His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." But please do not misunderstand what I am saying, for although God required nothing from us, and although we were yet sinners when Christ died, the Word of God very plainly teaches that regeneration is a divine necessity for eternal life. The only possible way for anyone to possess eternal life is through the new birth, or by faith in the finished work of Jesus!

Now with the new birth comes a different attitude towards God! With the new birth comes prayer and Bible study. With the new birth comes a love for the church. **Now the reason for this is very simple – "regeneration" is not "reformation."** Now is it the improvement of the principles born in man. God does not put in more "noble principles," but God puts in a new heart, as seen in Ezekiel 36:26, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh." There is no wonder that John wrote in I John 3: 1, "Behold what manner of love the father has bestowed upon us, in that we should be called the sons of God."

Look at verse 10, "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." The Word of God is telling us "Because Jesus lives, we live also." **We hear a lot of preaching on salvation, and that in itself is good.** We hear a lot of preaching on the Cross, and that in itself is good. We hear a lot of preaching about being filled with the Holy Spirit, and that in itself is good. But many times we only hear about the resurrection on Easter Sunday, and the Word of God tells us in I Corinthians 15:17, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, you are yet in your sins." And in verse 20 of that same chapter we are told, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." You see, salvation is not only a spiritual matter, but it is also a physical matter, for we have

been told in 2 Corinthians 4:14, "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall rise up us also by Jesus..." And in 2 Corinthians 5:15 we are told, "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation, which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee." **You see, the finished product of the Christian life will not appear until the "rapture" of the church, and the resurrection of the saints of God which will take place at God's appointed time.** It was this event that Paul had in mind in I Corinthians 15:51-58, "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

With all of that in mind, look at verse 11, "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the reconciliation." **All that we are, all that we have, all that we enjoy as a believer, all we ever hope to be, all we ever hope to have, is a result of the life, death, and life of our blessed Lord.** In Christ we cannot lose, but without Christ we cannot win.

The Greek word that has been translated "joy" in verse 11 is the same word that has been translated "rejoice" in verse 2. In I Thessalonians 5:16 we are told to "Rejoice evermore." The Word of God is very plain that we as Christians are to "rejoice" instead of always being downandout. Jesus to us in John 15:11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

You see; there is a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness depends on favorable circumstances, while joy does not. Happiness is more often than not based on feelings, while joy is produced from within. The Word of God tells us to "rejoice in the hope of glory." Romans 5:2 and in Romans 5:11 we are told "but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Tonight if you are a child of God then I challenge you to come to the place of getting your life involved in the joy of knowing that your service is a testimony to your Lord and that your salvation is producing real joy in your personality.