

Who am I? # 16

Romans 5: 6-11

Our text today is a very familiar portion of Scripture. It is one that has been shared over and over again throughout the ages to share the Gospel of Christ and bring comfort to believers. Only heaven will reveal the impact these verses have had in the spiritual lives of humanity.

There can be no doubt this passage is precious to me. I can certainly identify with the message Paul conveyed. It reveals the marvelous grace of God and the great sacrifice Christ made on behalf of all men. This passage was personal for Paul and it is personal for us as well. Many times Paul uses the personal pronoun “we.”

As I studied this passage, I was reminded of the grace of God in my life. I was reminded of the sacrifice Christ made for me. I am amazed when I consider all He did for me. I have to question: Who am I that Jesus would do all that for me? Let's take a few moments to consider the [realities](#) Paul speaks of as we think on that question: [Who am I?](#)

I. The Guilt of Sinners (6-7) – Paul has spoken at length regarding the depravity of sin and universal guilt of all men. He further confirms the guilt of sinners here. We see that:

A. We were Hindered (6a) – [For when we were yet without strength...](#) Paul speaks of the time when we all were without strength. That is an interesting statement. We all know what it means to be weak while lacking strength, but this carries a greater meaning than mere weakness. It does reveal that we all were *weak, feeble, and powerless*, but it also reveals the nature of our fallen state. Being without strength reveals *we were incapable of living an upright life*. There was no way we could possibly live our lives in a way that pleased the Lord. Regardless of our efforts, we came miserably short of what God demands.

- We all know those who appear to live a decent, moral life. In fact, most of us likely did prior to salvation, but we were still incapable of living in a manner that pleased God.

B. We were Haughty (6b) – [in due time Christ died for the ungodly.](#) Paul also refers to the sinner as ungodly. This speaks of *utter wickedness, having no fear or reverence for God*. Not only were we incapable of living for God, we really had no desire to live for Him. We saw no need of living for the Lord or seeking His ways. We were content to live our lives, indulging the flesh, with no thought or care for the Lord.

- I know our self-righteous nature doesn't like that, but it is true nonetheless. One doesn't have to be a murderer or engaged in gross sin every waking moment to live an ungodly life. Simply failing to recognize the Lord and submit to Him results in ungodliness. Each of us was guilty of ungodliness prior to salvation. We were just as lost as anyone, condemned in sin and headed toward an eternity in hell.

C. We were Hopeless (7) – *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.* Paul speaks of an event that happens only on rare occasions. Once in a while, someone will give their life in order for another to live. Typically this great sacrifice is for someone who is loved deeply and held in high regard.

- I have read this many times and pondered the depth of its meaning. We know what Paul has expressed, but what is it that he is seeking to convey? The reality is: it is unusual for someone to give their life so that we might live. Even if they did, it would not promise or secure eternal life. Their sacrifice might offer a few more days upon this earth, but it cannot grant eternal life. And, even if there were those willing, would we be deemed worthy of their sacrifice? Would we be held in high enough regard? There are none righteous, no not one!
- The focus of this verse is our inability to live righteously apart from Christ and our utter hopelessness without Him. Had He not made provision for us, we would all remain in sin and continue to be hopelessly lost. The sacrifice of men cannot provide salvation.

II. The Grace of God (8) – *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* After dealing with our guilt and hopelessness, Paul reveals encouragement and hope through God's grace. Notice:

A. The Transition (8a) – *But God commendeth his love toward us...* We all were hopeless in sin, incapable of living for the Lord with no real desire to do so anyway. Friends and loved ones were unable to change our hopeless state, but God stepped in and offered grace. Even though we were guilty and undeserving, God offered grace to humanity.

- The word commend in the text means "*to offer, to demonstrate, display, and provide.*" God is holy and we are born ungodly and sinful. In order to be accepted of God, we must be righteous as He is righteous. God provided the means of righteousness to us. His righteousness was transferred to us through the sacrifice of His Son. God's grace was put on display at the cross of Calvary!

B. The Timing (8b, 6) – while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ^[6] For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. God loved us and extended His grace toward us while we were yet in sin. He loved us long before we loved Him. While living in sin with no regard for the Lord at all, He loved us, having sent His Son to die for us. Provision was made for our salvation long before we ever received it. In fact, this was God's plan and purpose before the foundation of the world. He knew men would need a Savior. He knew we would be born in sin, separated from Him. He knew His Son would have to bear our guilt and shame before He ever formed Adam of the dust of the ground. Gal.4:4-5 – But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ^[5] To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

C. The Treasure (8b) – while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Paul again speaks of the great sacrifice and enormous gift of grace. Christ bore our sin, suffered the righteous judgment of God (which we deserved), and died in our place. He offered Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin, fully and eternally satisfying the righteous demands of God.

- I have been saved for over thirty years and I am still amazed at the grace of God. It is still beyond my ability to comprehend. We were so loved that Christ willingly humbled Himself in the form of a man to suffer the agonies of the cross in order to purchase our redemption. Of all the gifts I have received, none compare to the treasure I have in Jesus. He died for me! He died for you! We have hope and salvation because of Christ!

III. The Generosity in Salvation (9-11) – Here Paul discusses the gracious generosity of God and the great provision on our salvation. He speaks of:

A. Our Justification (9a) – Much more then, being now justified by his blood. We have already discussed this at length in previous studies, but Paul reminds us of the justification we have in salvation through Christ. We are declared righteous of God. The sinless righteousness of Christ has been imputed to us. We are no longer viewed as guilty and condemned, but righteous as our Lord.

B. Our Reconciliation (9b-10a) – we shall be saved from wrath through him. ^[10a] For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son. I rejoice to be justified, but I am also thankful to be reconciled. I was guilty, and you were too. Because of our sin, we were separated from God and deserved to face His righteous judgment. We stood in danger of eternal separation

and torment in hell. Our guilt demanded justice. In Christ we are delivered from the wrath of God. Prior to salvation we all were at enmity with God, but through Him we are reconciled to God.

C. Our Preservation (10b) – [being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life](#). Christ died upon the cross and was buried in a borrowed tomb, but He didn't stay dead. He rose from the dead and lives for evermore. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession. Because Christ lives, we have the hope and assurance of eternal life as well. We have life and enjoy it more abundantly through Christ our Lord.

D. Our Communication (11) – [And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement](#). This reveals a great truth. Those who once were at enmity with God through sin now rejoice in the Lord and offer praise unto Christ our Savior. The ungodly nature and desires we once possessed are replaced with a desire to please the Lord and worship Him. He is now the object of our affection rather than the flesh and its desires.

- Paul also speaks of our receiving the atonement. This is the same Greek word translated reconciliation in other passages. We have been made acceptable to the Lord and partakers of His gracious inheritance. We have access to the throne of grace and can enjoy communion with our Lord personally. We have received much in Christ.

Conclusion: Again we have been reminded of the undeniable guilty state of men due to sin. None are righteous and all need reconciliation to God. Thankfully the Lord made the way for our salvation. By His grace God sent His Son to purchase our redemption. There is hope and life in Christ. The benefits of salvation are more than we can comprehend. What a Savior we serve.

I continue to be amazed that God would love me as He does. Who am I that He would make such provision for? None of us are worthy, but there is salvation in Christ. Do you know Him as your Savior? Was there a moment in time that you repented of sin and believed the Gospel? If not I urge you to do so!