

## Romans, Grace and Faith

5:6-8

### “Purchased by God”

**Rom 5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

**Rom 5:7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—**

**Rom 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

I love the simplicity, yet weighted significance of this passage!

I’m going verse-by-verse today, leading us to a discussion on the concept of the word “deserve.”

- I will ask you to occasionally say the phrase **“What do I deserve?”**
- Very little PPT, for the purpose of keeping us focused on the text itself.

**Rom 5:6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

### “Still” Weak

- Still = eti = “yet”, still (of time or degree): - after that, also..
- Weak = asthenēs = strengthless (in various applications, literally, or figuratively and morally): - more feeble, impotent, sick, without strength, weak (-er, -ness, thing).
  - “still” implies that we are weak no longer!
  - This is a “long tease,” preparing the reader for Romans 12-16..

### Right time (the context of Abraham)

- Kairos = set or proper time: - X always, opportunity, (convenient, due) season, (due, short, while) time
  - Scholars often refer to the Cross of Christ as “The timeless work of the cross.”
    - This is just one passage used to teach it.
  - Basically, Paul is answering the unspoken question, **“What about all who died without seeing the Promise?”**
    - Of course, Hebrews 11 (heroes of the faith) addresses that question as well.
    - But here, Paul is driving home the teaching that **FAITH leads to salvation, and always has.**
    - He’s still on the example of Abraham, who believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness – before the Law, before circumcision’s symbolism of the law, before sacrifices were commanded to atone for sin – FAITH has always led to salvation, and always will.
    - Elaborate...

### Ungodly (Christ died for the ungodly)

- asebēs = irreverent, that is, (by extension) impious or wicked: - ungodly (man).
- If you’ve been paying attention, I’ve – on occasion when it comes up – been debunking several (not all) tenets of the Calvinist doctrine, aka Reformation doctrine.
- This verse makes staunch Calvinists a bit uncomfortable, because one of the 5 points of Calvin’s doctrine is called “limited atonement”

- Limited atonement is a very flimsy theory that says, verbatim from a popular Calvinist website: “Though the death of Jesus Christ is sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world, it was the intention of God the Father that the atonement of Christ's death would work itself out in the elect only, thereby leading them without fail to salvation.”
- Whenever I read about Limited Atonement and some of the skewed doctrines surrounding “the elect,” I have the sensation that I just finished a big burger, I’m satisfied in the meal, my plate is clean, but my neighbor keeps trying to stuff half his burger into my mouth.
  - For some of you, that makes perfect sense.
  - For others, God bless you – that you don’t get it. You’ll be thankful later.
- But I digress...
  - “Christ died FOR the ungodly.”
    - Of which we ALL were before our faith in Christ Jesus was counted to us as righteousness.
    - Thank you Lord that you are not a cold-hearted creator playing a cruel joke on a majority of mankind, and only randomly “selecting” some to be saved.
    - Thank you Lord that by Your grace, your blood was SHED – POURED OUT upon the WORLD, and those who believe in you are called children of God.

**“What do I deserve?”**

**Rom 5:7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—**

“Righteous” and “Good” are indeed two different Greek words.

- Scholars have searched for years to find some significance in this verse in a vacuum.
- But truly, the point is that sometimes people die for people they love, or “good” people.

**Albert Barnes:**

- *“It is an unusual occurrence, an event which is all that we can hope for from the highest human benevolence and the purest friendship, that one would be willing to die for a good man. There are none who would be willing to die for a man who was seeking to do us injury, to calumniate our character, to destroy our happiness or our property. But Christ was willing to die for bitter foes.”*
- It’s a set up for the following verse – the shock value, really – that is intended in v8...

**Rom 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**The title: “Purchased By God”**

- Understanding the whole context of sin and salvation:
  - In the Garden of Eden, Satan stole man’s heart and soul from God through deception.
    - Immediately upon “taking in” (eating) the fruit of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve “took in” sin – the knowledge of it, and all its ugliness and ungodliness with it.
  - Immediately, God prophesies that He will remedy this – and that remedy was Himself, shedding His own blood as a man to atone for – to cover the cost necessary to fully and legally pardon the sins of the world.

- God purchased you – ransomed you back from the one who owned you: Satan himself, the father of lies, evil, destruction – the very embodiment of ungodliness.
- And the most amazing part of it all: He purchased you back while you were still blissfully engaging in all that is ungodly.
  - Amazing Grace.
  - Amazing Love.

***“What do I deserve?”***

**Shows / Demonstrates (His LOVE)**

- sunistēmi = to set together, to introduce, to exhibit; to constitute: - approve, commend, consist
  - Consider the love you have for your own children, and multiply it by a hundred, and you’re still not even close to the kind of love God has for every single one of His yet-saved created human beings.
  - And THEN consider that He gives the greatest gift to the least deserving recipients.
  - Salvation is a gift God gives.
    - And if you ask why, He’ll say because “I love you.”
    - He won’t say “because you did such and such.”
    - Or, “because I really like how you do such and such.”
    - Or, “because you did such a great job with such and such.”
    - Or, “because you love me.”
    - Or, “because you’re so nice.”
    - Pick an answer – it’ll never be because you did something, or acted on something, or loved him back, or any such thing.
    - God gave the gift of salvation to the UN-godly!.....
      - To those who didn’t even know they needed it.
      - Crazy!

**God didn’t die for us when/because we were good.**

- **God died for us because we were HIS.**

Every parent would understand a loving father dying in the place of his estranged, rebellious child.

- And pretty much every person would consider the act heroic, newsworthy, courageous, and loving.
- Everyone, that is, except the estranged, rebellious child.
  - They might be inclined to think:
    - “There goes dad again, trying to show everyone who good he is.”
    - “He was just trying to make up for being wrong all these years.”
    - “I didn’t need him to do die for me.”
  - Boy, that was ME, in my early adult years.
    - Anybody else still feel angst toward God – even when you knew He died for you?
- And God followed through with his plan anyway, and exercises great patience with his rebellious children.

**Let's conclude our time in a discussion about the word "deserving" and how it impacts how we live, think, act, and communicate the gospel.**

**"What do I deserve?"**

- A lot of Christians believe they "deserve" things...
- "It's not fair" is a great indication of that.
- When we get angry with God, that's an indictment on our comprehension of what grace IS.
  - As I've taught before, don't hide your feelings/thoughts/questions/emotions from God.
  - Because in revealing your frustration, God will patiently teach you.
  - To be silent in your frustration yields contempt, adds to the boiling pot, and only produces deeper frustration.
- Our anger and demand for fairness clearly shows that we believe God owes us more than LOVE...
  - which prompted in His death, resurrection, Spirit dwelling in you, supernatural gifts, every good gifts, and eternal life.
- Questions:
  - What is the meaning of the word "deserve"?
    - to merit, be qualified for, or have a claim to (reward, assistance, punishment, etc.) because of actions, qualities, or situation.
  - Do you deserve good things?
  - Do you deserve happiness?
  - Do you deserve to be treated fairly?
  - Do you deserve what you earn?
  - What did Jesus deserve?
    - What did Jesus get?

***In comprehending that ALL of mankind doesn't deserve anything good, and yet we received the greatest gift ever given, how does that impact the way you view the future?***

- What for, and why, do you live?
- What are you spending tons of time engaging in these days that are contrary to God's intentions for you?
- Do you presume on the kindness and riches of God's grace? (Romans 2:4)?

Final conclusion: put the previous slide up:

**God didn't die for us when/because we were good.**

- **God died for us because we were HIS.**

And you and I are called to live of life not demanding fairness, or living as though we deserve anything.

- Rather, to **live as though all others around us are worthy of the grace-filled LOVE God gives to us.**
  - The kind of love Christ demonstrated for us – while we were YET sinners.
  - He died for those who were actively rejecting Him.
- How are you doing modeling such love???
  - It's been modeled to YOU.
  - What reason do you have to withhold it?

**Start at home:**

- Spread the culture of grace: Undeserved LOVE, in your HOME.
  - Elaborate

Pray

**WORSHIP TEAM UP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Stuart and Tim are available for prayer

NCL on the patio