

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 3rd, 2013

Passage: Romans 5:6-8

Memory Passage: Romans 6:4

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 5:6-8.** Notice that each of these 3 verses begins with the conjunction “for” or “but.” What thoughts do each of these conjunctions connect? What is the main point of these 3 verses?
- (b) In this context, to what is Paul referring with the phrase, “when we were weak?” How were we weak? To what extent were we weak? Are we still weak? Why or why not? How else are we described in these 3 verses, and do these terms refer to different things or are they synonymous? What justification do you have for your answer?
- (c) What does the phrase, “at the right time” modify (i.e. does it refer to our weakness or Christ’s dying)? What does it mean (cf. Gal. 4:4)? What was “right” about the time?
- (d) The truths in v. 6 should bring you (a) comfort and assurance with your salvation, and (b) passion and hope in your witnessing. Write down several reasons, limiting your thoughts to the truths found in v. 6, that I would say both (a) & (b).
- (e) *Family:* My apologies to our families, but this week I did not have the time to think through family lessons and applications for our text. These family questions usually take me much longer to formulate than the other questions, and because of an overflowing week of ministry opportunities I do not have the time to write them.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 5:6-8.** What is the difference between the “righteous person” and the “good person” mentioned in v. 7? Why would there be more of a chance for a person to die in the place of the “good” person than the “righteous” person? How does this verse inform Paul’s thoughts in vs. 6-8? In verses 1-11?
- (b) Who is the “one” mentioned in v. 6? Would *you* be ready to die for someone who was righteous? Someone who was good? Why or why not? What kind of commitment would you be making if you were? Have you ever had the opportunity to face this decision, even though you did not actually die (maybe you sheltered your child from a potentially deadly event, or maybe you served in wartime, or maybe you confronted an attacker of your family, etc)? What did you think at the time? How did this opportunity affect you? Was the person (or people) for whom you would have given your life “righteous” or “good?”
- (c) In the context of these 3 verses, with whom are the righteous/good in v. 6 contrasted? With whom is the “one” in v. 6 contrasted? Why are these contrasts important?
- (d) *Family:*

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 5:6-8.** Verse 8 begins with the words: “But God.” This phrase occurs in the ESV translation 43 times. As you read the following verses (and read their contexts), write down what God accomplishes, overturns, overcomes, etc: **Gen. 3:3, 50:24; Ps. 64:7, 73:26; Acts 10:40, 13:30; 1 Cor. 1:27, 3:6; 2 Cor. 7:6; Eph. 2:4.**
- (b) What is God accomplishing/overturning/overcoming in Romans 5:8? Why is this important, and what does it mean to the lost and dying world in which you work, live, and witness?
- (c) Look at the list you made in (a) above and write down why each of these acts of God are important to you, to your family, to those whom you disciple, and to those to whom you minister & witness. You should have several points of application to spark a great discussion in your family and in your Sunday school class!
- (d) *Family:*

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 5:6-8.** To whom does “us” refer in v. 8? How does Christ’s death for sinners show (demonstrate, prove) God’s love for us? Is this an objective or subjective demonstration of God’s love? How do you know?
- (b) Notice that the verb “shows” is in the present tense in v. 8. Does this surprise you? Why is it in the present tense while “died” is in the past tense? Think through the ramifications and benefits and wonders of God “showing,” present tense, His love for you through the past death of Christ while you were still ungodly and a sinner and write down your thoughts

(c) God's love is also mentioned as being "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" in v. 5. Is this different than the demonstration of God's love in 5:8 or the same? Upon what do you base your answer? How is the teaching in vs. 6-8 related to being justified by faith (vs. 1, 9)?

(d) Meditate for a moment on the thought that God loves *you*! What emotions does (or should) this objective fact produce in you? Think back to the first time you realized you were loved by your spouse (or the first time you felt loved by another person, if you are not married). What types of emotion did that knowledge stir? Should not the knowledge that the creator of the universe loves you produce an even greater response of wonder, joy, satisfaction, and passion? Record the thoughts, praises, and thankfulness you experience as you meditate on this marvelous and miraculous fact. Maybe they will come in the form of a verse, or a song, or a poem that can be shared with your class!

(e) *Family*:

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:5-8.** We will spend today thinking about the ramifications of one word: the word "for." Notice the 2 phrases: "Christ died *for* the ungodly" (v. 6) and "Christ died *for* us" (v. 8). What does this little preposition mean in these 2 verses? Does it simply mean, "on our behalf" or "for our benefit" or is there a deeper meaning?

(b) Christ's death was "for" us in that it was substitutionary: His death in place of ours; Him receiving what we deserved. Read and meditate on the following passages of Scripture (both the OT prophecy and the NT fulfillment) and write down what you learn about Christ dying *for* (as a substitute for) sinners: Lev. 1:1-4, 16:20-22; Is. 53 (much to learn in this chapter!); Matt. 20:28; John 11:47-52; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:20, 3:13-14; Eph. 5:2; 1 Thess. 5:9-10; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:27-28.

(c) All of these passages point toward different aspects of the substitutionary atonement our Lord Jesus Christ provided for His people, and the little word "for" in Romans 5:6, 8 bears the weight of this pregnant truth. See how important prepositions can be! "Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

(d) *Family*:

DATE: February 3rd, 2013

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The Love of God in the Death of Christ