

Title: Helpless Sinners, Gracious Savior

Scripture: Romans 5:6-11

Series: Topical

1. Introduction:

- a. Today our subject of consideration is a most worthy topic. Today we study the salvation gained by Jesus at the cross.
- b. I hope you will see the beauty of what we call the Gospel.
 - i. The gospel, or good news, is the message declaring God's love for those he would save. In the gospel, we encounter ourselves for who we are, and we are repulsed. In the gospel, we discover the Savior, Jesus Christ, and we are humbled and drawn in by divine love.
- c. Today, let us study one of the most beautiful passages of the scriptures. May God the Holy Spirit draw the believer to great exaltation for the grace of salvation, and may the same Holy Spirit draw any unbeliever to the beauty of Jesus Christ.

2. Verse 6: Man, a weak sinner: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

- a. Our passage begins with, **for while we were still weak** - weak in the Greek is *asthenēs*. It means without strength, powerless, without physical ability, impotent, unequal to the task.

- i. Our passage immediately confronts us with men's inability. The Bible clarifies that man is powerless and impotent when it comes to being spiritually right before the ever holy God. According to the scriptures, this **weakness** is an endemic condition true of all humanity.
 - 1. What is this weakness that makes us so unable to live rightly before God?
 - 2. This **weakness** can be summarized by Paul's usage of the word **ungodly** to describe us all. We are born in sins. We grow up in sin and practice sin and give ourselves over to sin throughout our lives. We offend God and continue to offend God by living life on our own terms.
 - a. Beloved, it is not that sin will kill us one day, but that sin has already killed us, and we do not recognize it.
 - i. Any person living apart from Jesus Christ as Lord and savior is from birth, a dead man walking.
 - ii. We stand condemned before our God all of our lives.
- ii. But here is where the good news of the Gospel begins. Here is the place where God decides to meet us.

1. Paul will make the case that humanity being powerless, was unable to rescue itself from the effects of the fall, and Christ motivated by sovereign love and not by any human merit or accomplishment, **died for us the ungodly**. It is through death that Jesus pays the penalty (ransom) for our sins and atones for us.
 - a. This is exceedingly good news. We can be forgiven if we surrender to the Lordship and Salvation of Jesus Christ.

3. Verses 7 and 8: Christ's love for sinners, exemplified in His death: For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— (8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - a. The character of God's love becomes evident when we consider the fact that for a righteous or good person (if such a person existed) a man will barely die. On the other hand, God demonstrates his love toward sinners by dying for them; even in their state of enmity.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- b. Paul is saying that God's love, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is both unprecedented and unparalleled.
 - i. Unprecedented: never before had any gods sacrificed for the creation. The reason being is that they are false gods, the figment of men's imagination.
 - ii. Unparalleled: condescending and pardoning grace. Christ died for those who were bad, bad, bad! In them, there was no good that could have attracted this love. In the death of Jesus for sinners, God demonstrates "his own" sovereign love.
4. Verses 9 and 10: Justified and saved: Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. (10) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- a. We will not be disappointed in our hope, for, in Christ, God loves us so profoundly that the Savior died for us while we were still sinners (**enemies**). If we were justified by that death—or that blood—of Christ, much more shall we be saved from any **future outpouring of God's wrath**.
 - i. If God did the greater, will he not even more readily do the lesser?

- ii. **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,
- b. **saved through his life**: It is the resurrected, living, and holy Son of God who, through his Spirit, carries to completion in our hearts and lives the work of salvation.
 - i. **Hebrews 7:25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
 - ii. **Romans 4:25** who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

5. Verse 11: Rejoice in God through the Lord Jesus Christ: More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- a. Because we have been **reconciled** to God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are a grateful people.
 - i. **1 Peter 1:8-9** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (9) obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

b. Our boast is that Jesus Christ has saved us and not we ourselves. We boast that salvation is found in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are grateful to God! Forever grateful! Because when we were enemies, undeserving wretches, God infinitely loved us and sent His Son to die on the cross to bear our sins. Jesus was substituted and suffered the pain and the penalty of sin on our behalf. Jesus died so that we wouldn't have to die in our sins. Jesus rose again so that we could know the hope of Eternal Resurrection. Jesus ascended into heaven and intercedes for us, assuring our victory over the sin and death of this world. In Jesus Christ, there's life, and outside of Jesus, there is only the death that we were born in.

i. Sinner, what are you waiting for? How much clearer does the Word of God have to be? Can there be any better news for you today? You were born dead! You were born hopeless! You've lived your life in the futility of your sin! But, but, while you have always been an enemy of God, God has sent his Son to die to reconcile sinners like you. Why should you be any different?

1. And consider the following. It is not that somehow you are doing God a favor by acknowledging the son of God, but God has condescended to make himself known to a finite and impotent creature like you and me. Run to Jesus before it's too late, and you die in your sins as an offense to the holy God. Tomorrow might be too late!
 - a. **2 Corinthians 6:1-2** Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2) For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
 - ii. Beloved, Jesus Christ has done it! Through Him, we can be saved and forgiven all the sin, evil, and grossness of our previous lives. Christ’s death caused us to be born anew; again. Our song shall ever be that it was Jesus and Jesus alone who caused us to live:
 1. **1 Corinthians 1:31** so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

6. Benediction:

- a. **1 John 4:10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**Public Reading of Scripture:
1 Corinthians 15:1-4**