

Morning Sermon August 16, 2015  
"The Greatness of God's Grace" Romans 5:6-11

I. The greatness of God's grace is seen in "when" and to "whom" it is given -

1. When we were helpless to save ourselves, Christ died for us – For when we were still without strength, (Romans 5:6 NKJ)

"Christ's work was not according to the 'God helps them that helps themselves' of *Poor Richard's Almanac*. He did not wait for us to start helping ourselves, but died for us when we were altogether helpless." C.E.B. Cranfield

2. In due time –

in due time (Romans 5:6 NKJ) refers to seasonal time -

A. This points to the fact that God has a purpose for time (in general) and (specific) times – (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NKJ)

B. Christ's life, death and resurrection mark the point of the fullness of time –

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. (Galatians 4:4-5 NKJ)

C. When corruption ruled, when prophesy would be fulfilled – Different than the solid gold of the Babylonian Kingdom, by Christ's time we would be dealing with iron and clay -

<sup>40</sup> "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. <sup>41</sup> "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. <sup>42</sup> "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. <sup>43</sup> "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. <sup>44</sup> "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Dan 2:40-44 NKJ)

3. While we were still sinners, when we were enemies – in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NKJ)

<sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, (Romans 5:10 NKJ)

These verses show us clearly God's love for us is IN SPITE of who we were, and not because of who we were! He loves us because of HOW LOVING HE IS, not because of how lovely we are! How bad were we? We were:

A. Without strength, helpless, weak, unable to do good - without strength (Roman 5:6 NKJ)

This is definitely referring to moral weakness; we are unable to do good -

<sup>23</sup> Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? *Then* may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. (Jeremiah 13:23 NKJ)

So unable are we were are described as dead in trespasses and sins – **Ephesians 2:1**

B. Ungodly – time Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6 NKJ)

"UNGODLY it would as well describe you as if the sea were to be labeled salt water. Would it not?" C.H. Spurgeon

C. Sinners – in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NKJ)

Christ came only to save sinners –

<sup>21</sup> "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

<sup>30</sup> And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>32</sup> "I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Luke 5:30-32 NKJ)

All of us our sinners – all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23 NKJ)

D. *Enemies – “when we were enemies we were reconciled to God” (Romans 5:10 NKJ)*

E. *Be amazed because this dying for bad people is just not done, we scarcely will die for a righteous or good person, God demonstrates the greatness of His love and grace by*

<sup>7</sup> *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:7-8 NKJ)*

A. *Righteous - perfect, just, keeper of the law, someone who does not deserve to die, this man has our respect BUT very rarely will some other man die in his place.*

B. *Good – kind, generous, friendly – this man has our affection, but ...*

*Would you die to save fire ants?*

II. *The Greatness of God’s grace is seen in the “much more” God is able to do now -*

<sup>9</sup> *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (Romans 5:9-11 NKJ)*

1. *Christ died for us when we were helpless, ungodly, sinners and enemies, how much more now that we are:*

A. *Justified by His blood - :9*

B. *And reconciled - :10*

*How much more since our estate has been dramatically improved, we are now “justified” and “reconciled” --- we should expect the same God Who was gracious to us at our worse would continue to be gracious when he sees our condition greatly improved.*

2. *Also we were justified by His blood and reconciled by His death, how much more (even His death has saved us) should we expect His LIFE, His Resurrection, His Ascension to Heaven*

*and the Right Hand of God, also save us? If His death saves, His LIFE should save even more!*

<sup>24</sup> **But He**, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;* (Hebrews 7:24-26 NKJ)

III. *The Greatness of God’s grace is seen when we “rejoice” “boast” “glory” and trust in Him, rather than in ourselves – <sup>11</sup> And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (Romans 5:11 NKJ)*

NIV Romans 5:11 Not only is this so, but we also **boast in God** ...  
NAS Romans 5:11 And not only this, but we also **exult in God** ...

*αυχαομαι* kauchaomai {kow-khah'-om-ahee}

**Meaning:** 1) to glory (whether with reason or without) 2) to glory on account of a thing 3) to glory in a thing

**Origin:** from some (obsolete) base akin to that of *aucheo* (to boast)

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

*Boasting, glorying, rejoicing in God does not come naturally to us. The Seed of Faith (and the New Birth) is supernatural Seed, the Word of God -*

<sup>23</sup> **having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,**

<sup>24</sup> **because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, <sup>25</sup> But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you. (1Peter 1:23-25 NKJ)**

*This is what separates true, Biblical Christianity from all false religion, God reaches down to save us -*