

Words to Live By

Romans 5:6-8

Message Outline

Problem: We were helpless.

Solution: God's love is greater than our weakness.

Application: Live out of God's love.

Looking Back

Whether we recognize it or not, our life is directed by an internal roadmap or paradigm of deeply held internal thoughts and beliefs. From time-to-time we need to examine those foundational perspectives to ensure that our paradigm is aligned with a biblical perspective. Romans 5:6-8 provides foundational truths to shift our paradigms to a biblical approach.

Thinking It Through

disagree|agree, consider|contemplate

Justification is an act of pure grace. Many ministers actually stay away from the topic of grace because they are inwardly afraid that congregants might misinterpret the message and cheapen grace by thinking that God somehow justifies sin. But true grace says that God justifies the sinner. Don't be afraid of true grace just because some have cheapened it with a lifestyle where they take their position before God for granted and continue unchanged. ~ Chuck Swindoll

It is because we do not know and realize that love as we should that we are what we are. The greatest characteristic of the greatest saints in all ages has always been their realization of God's love to them. That is what the Apostle expounds here. Not our love to Him, but His love to us. Our salvation, our assurance, depend not on our love to Him, thank God! ~ D. Martin Lloyd-Jones

I am sure that anyone who has gone through any degree of suffering knows that in the moment of pain and hurt it is easy to feel that God does not love you. It is easy to feel rejected, unloved... Paul says there is a place where every Christian knows that God loves him,

even though he himself is worthless and useless and forgotten. What is that place? It is the cross. ~ Ray Steadman

Working it Out

1. Read the entirety of Romans 5 three times, paying special attention to verses 6-8.
 - a. What words do you notice being repeated and what themes are emphasized in this chapter?
 - b. How would you paraphrase verses 6-8 or what is the main idea in these three verses?
 2. How have you experienced the truth that we are "helpless." Do you push against this idea or accept it? Why might that be?
 3. Have you ever felt truly and completely loved? When or who helped you feel that way?
 4. How does Romans 5 (especially verses 6-8) describe and express God's love?
 - a. How would you describe or express God's love?
 - b. Consider writing this down in a prayer of thanksgiving or poetry or a few short lines of thought.
 5. How could you grow in God's love right now? What might change in your life if you lived out of a secure position of being loved by God? What, in you, prevents or works against acceptance of God's love for you?
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