



## MORE GRACE GOD'S LOVE

Romans 5:1-11

Ephesians 3:14-21

1 John 4:7-21

20 February 2022

### Pressing Forward into 2022

#### What Are You Comfortable With?

- I am comfortable in my definition of what it means to be a Christian - Christ died for me and that's enough for me.
- I have a burning desire to grow in my relationship with God and to be actively serving Him in a local Body of believers. (Romans 12:4-5)

#### God's Amazing & POWERFUL Grace So Far

- Golden Chain of Grace (Romans 8:28-30)
- God's Grace of Preservation & Perseverance
- God preserves ALL of His saints. (Psalm 37:28; 97:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1; John 6:38-39; 10:27-29; 17:11-12)
- God's Grace of Peace With God (Romans 5:1)
  - ★ Either you have peace with God and God with you OR you are an enemy of God.
  - ★ God has promised His vengeance and wrath upon His enemies.
- God's Grace of Access and to Stand (Romans 5:2a)
  - ★ One can ONLY be acceptable to God IN CHRIST JESUS. (Eph 1:6)
- God's Grace of the Hope of His Glory (Romans 5:2b)
- God's Grace of Growth through Tribulation (Romans 5:2b-5a)

#### MORE GRACE: Divine Love (Romans 5:5b-8)

- (v. 5) God **poured** on **by** His Holy Spirit who was **given** to us. (Ezek 36:26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Cor 1:22; Gal 4:6) **ONLY THOSE WHO ARE HIS.**
- (v. 6) "without strength" means that we were unable to do anything to please God or anything to save ourselves. (Luke 18:26-27).
  - ★ The natural man **cannot** obey God. (Romans 8:7)
  - ★ The natural man **cannot** please God. (Romans 8:8; Hebrews 11:6)
  - ★ The natural man **cannot** understand the things of God. (1 Cor. 2:14)
  - ★ The natural man **cannot** come to Christ. (John 6:44, 65)

- "in due time" or "at the right time" or "at the appointed time"
  - ★ God works on HIS time schedule NOT man's. (See Galatians 4:4)
  - History is all about GOD – not about us!
- Christ died for the UNGODLY person – NOT a GOOD person. How ungodly were we?
  - Our flesh profits **NOTHING**. (John 6:63)
  - There is **NOTHING** good in us. (Romans 7:18)
  - My righteousness is **filthy rags**. (Isaiah 64:6)
  - We were born in iniquity. (Psalm 51:5)
  - We were **DEAD** (dead people cannot do anything!) in my trespasses. (Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13)
  - "**Every intent** of the thoughts of my **heart** (mind, will, emotions) was **only** evil **continually**." (Genesis 6:5; 8:21)
  - We were under the control of Satan. (Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 5:19)
  - We were children of Satan. (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10)
  - We were in **bondage** to sin. (John 8:34-36; Romans 6:6, 19-20; Galatians 4:3; Hebrews 2:15)
  - We were in **bondage** to our own sinful, self-centered, self-righteous lusts and desires. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

#### BUT GOD (Romans 5:8)

- "the love of God" - What is your definition?
  - Much different from man's love. It is NOTHING like human love.
  - 1 John 4:10 – God sent His Son **to be** the **propitiation** for our sins.
  - The opposite of God's love is His wrath.
  - Either the love of God abides (remains) on you (Romans 8:35, 38-39) or the wrath of God abides on you (John 3:36).
- God **poured** (ἐκχέω - "to pour out"; "to bestow or distribute largely") out His love unto His own.
  - ★ TENSE: **PERFECT** - one time and never to be repeated.
  - ★ MOOD: **PASSIVE** - we do nothing to cause God to love us.
- God's love for us (His people) is **GREAT**. (Ephesians 2:4)
- Paul prayed that the Ephesians saints might comprehend this GREAT love. (See Ephesians 3:14-21) – "to **KNOW** the love of Christ"
- **Here is our feeble attempt to comprehend:**
  - ♥ God's love is **eternal/everlasting**. Because God is eternal, His love must be eternal. (Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-5)
    - Since "God is love" (1 John 4:8) and He is "everlasting to everlasting" it is then true that His love for His people are from everlasting to everlasting.
  - ♥ God's love is **unchanging**. (James 1:17; John 13:1; Romans 8:35-39)
    - It is PERFECT.

- All of God's gifts are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29)
- NOTHING and NO ONE can separate us from this love.
- ♥ God's love is **sovereign**. (Malachi 1:2-3; Deut 7:7-8; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; Romans 9:10-15; Psalm 5:5; 7:11)
  - It is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." (Romans 9:13; Malachi 1:2-3)
  - Since nothing influences God it is safe to say that God's love comes from within HIMSELF and He loves whom He pleases. (Job 23:13; Psalm 115:3; 135:6; **Ephesians 1:4**)
- ♥ God's love is **uninfluenced/unconditional**. There is nothing in the objects of God's love that cause Him to love them. God loves because He chooses to love. (Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Eph 2:4-5; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 John 4:19)
- ♥ God's love is **holy**. God is love but He is also Light! (1 John 1:5; Psalm 5:5; 7:11; Isaiah 6:3)
  - God's love is **pure**. It is not mixed with human sentimentality.
- ♥ God's love is **gracious/merciful**. (Ephesians 2:1-5)
  - All of God's gifts come to undeserving persons.
  - God loved us **when** we were without strength, totally ungodly, sinners, and His enemies!
- ♥ God's love is **sacrificial**. (John 3:16; 2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:5-8; Isaiah 50:6)
  - ★ God gave His Son. (John 3:16; Rom 8:32; Isa 53:10; 1 John 4:10)
  - ★ Christ gave Himself. (Gal 2:20; John 10:17-18; Eph 5:25; Titus 2:14)
- ♥ God's love is **demonstrated**. (Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10; John 15:13; Gal 2:20)
- ♥ God's love is **servng**. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:7; John 13:1-14)
- ♥ God's love is **infinite**. (Ephesians 3:17-19; 2:4) Greater than all the oceans combined! (Hymn: *The Love of God*)
- ♥ God's love is **relational**. (1 John 3:1; John 1:13; Romans 8:14-17; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:22-33)
- ♥ God's love **disciplines**. (Heb 12:5-6; Psa 89:30-34; Prov 3:12; Rev 3:19)
- ♥ God's love **comforts**. (2 Corinthians 1:3-6; 1 John 4:18)
- ♥ Christ's love is **obedient**. (Philippians 2:5-11; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)
- **Praying to Comprehend Even Deeper** (Ephesians 3:18)
- **"width"** Wide enough for people from "every tribe and tongue and people on the earth" (Reve:9; 7:9) Wide enough for "Greek, Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, **Scythian**, slave, free, wise, unwise, rich, poor, man, woman, every social/economic status . . ." (Gal 3:28; Rom 1:14; Col 3:11)
- **"length"** Christ's love is an everlasting love that had its origin in eternity "past" and continues to this day and into eternity "tomorrow". (Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-5; **Hebrews 7:25**; 13:8)
  - Christ's love is **longsuffering**. (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 1:16; Romans 2:4; Psalm 86:15; Numbers 14:18; Exodus 34:6)
  - NOTHING and NO ONE can separate us from the love of God in Christ

Jesus. (Romans 8:35-39)

- **"depth"** Christ's love brought Him **down** from heaven to earth even the lower parts of the earth (grave; Ephesians 4:9); He entered into the womb of virgin, was born a baby, made Himself of no reputation, came as a "doulos" - lowest of slaves, **was made sin**, gave Himself to be arrested, mocked, spat upon, whipped, beaten, nailed to a criminal's cross by sinners; He died, and was buried. (Hymn: *And can it be?*) And He did this for those who were His enemies and rebellious, stiff-necked **creatures**.
- **"height"** His love does not just bring us forgiveness of sins! His love makes us "heirs of God" (Romans 8:17); His love prepares a place for us for eternity in His Father's house (John 14:1-3); His love will "transform our lowly bodies" into bodies like His (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58); His love takes us to heaven and seats us with Him on His Father's throne (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:1-3; Hymn: *Here Is Love*); His love intercedes for us continually (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

## The RESULTS of God pouring out His love —

- ★ We are commanded to IMITATE God! (Ephesians 5:1)
- ① Because God FIRST loved us we NOW love Him. (1 John 4:18; 1 John 5:1-2)
- ② Since God demonstrates His love (love is an action verb) we demonstrated our love for Him in OBEDIENCE to His commandments and loving each other JUST AS Christ loved us. (1 John 2:9-11; 3:10, 14-17; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13; 1 John 3:16)
- ③ Because of God's love for us we DENY ourselves and consider others more important than ourselves. (Philippians 2:5-11; 1 John 3:16-18)
- ④ God's love motivates us to treasure KNOWING Christ above EVERYTHING else - in fact, everything else becomes RUBBISH to us. (Philippians 3:7-11; Galatians 2:20)
- ⑤ Rivers of living water will flow out of us to others. (John 7:38-39)
- ⑥ The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love . . . . . – (Galatians 5:22)
  - Fruit is always for others – never for ourselves. (See John 15:1-5, 8)
- ⑦ Again, obedience to God's commands are NOT burdensome but a joy! (1 John 5:2-3; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; Ezekiel 36:25-26)

## Pressing On into 2022

- GROW in the understanding of God's GREAT love for us and into a deeper relationship with Him. PRAY Ephesians 3:14-21 for each other.
- GLORIFY Him in EVERYTHING we do *by* enjoying Him. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- BE CHURCH to one another following the HEAD's example! (Romans 12:4-5)
- Abound more and more in love to one another and to all. (1 Thess 3:11)

