

## Lesson 27 - THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD *Romans 5:6-11*

**(5:6) - “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly”**  
- This verse describes the unconditional love of God for all the people who He saves. We need to understand that there are conditions for God’s love to His people, but the point is this - None of those conditions were (or are) placed upon His people. Why? It is because if any conditions for God’s love and God’s salvation were placed upon us, there would be no love from God and no salvation for us? The reason is stated here - **“For when we were yet without strength.”** This means that we by nature and by practice are totally unable to do anything towards removing God’s wrath or becoming righteous in God’s sight. No language could be more specific to exclude all pretensions that anything could recommend us to God except the righteousness of His Son established by His obedience unto death. Christ died for the ungodly. Apart from His righteousness, we would all have forever continued to be ungodly.

So, when it comes to earning or qualifying ourselves to be loved of God or saved by God, we are SINNERS who have no ability or desire for God’s way of salvation (**Rom. 3:10-12**). The only thing we can (and have) earn from God is His hatred, wrath, and eternal damnation. When it comes to God’s love and the salvation He freely and fully provided and gives to His people, all of the conditions were placed upon the Lord Jesus Christ - **“in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”** So, God’s love is totally unconditional towards those whom He loves and saves, but His love and His salvation demands that certain conditions be fulfilled by someone who is willing and able to do the work. That person is the Lord Jesus Christ Who **“is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25)**. God cannot love or save sinners apart from His holiness, justice, and truth being satisfied and honored. This is impossible if His love and salvation were conditioned on sinners. We are totally **“without strength.”** But Christ is both the power and the wisdom of God. It is through Him and based on the merits of His obedience unto death (His righteousness) alone that God can and does love and save sinners justly and in truth - **“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10)**. **“Propitiation”** describes God’s justice satisfied and wrath removed from His people by the death of Christ. Without this satisfaction by Christ when He fulfilled all the conditions of salvation for His people, there is no love or salvation from God for sinners. There is only hatred and damnation. It was because of God’s love for His chosen people, and His purpose to save them to the uttermost, that Christ has to come into the world and die for their sins (**John 3:14-16**).

So many people today do not understand the true nature of God’s love. The reason is that they liken God’s love to their own human (even sinful and selfish) love. Man’s natural misconception of God in general has always come from this kind of sinful human reasoning - **“thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes” (Psalm 50:21)**. This is why many people refuse to consider the fact that God could hate anyone, when the Bible clearly states that He does (**Psa. 5:5; 11:5; Prov. 6:16-19; Hosea 9:15; Mal. 1:3; Rom. 9:13**). But God’s hatred is not like the sinful and selfish hatred we harbor in our sinful hearts. God’s hatred is HIS JUST WRATH AGAINST ALL SINNERS WHERE SIN IS IMPUTED TO THEM. It is righteous hatred or righteous indignation. God cannot but hate sinners if His justice towards them is left unsatisfied. But God’s love is His purpose to save His chosen people in a JUST way by His grace through the Lord Jesus Christ (**Rom. 5:21**). God’s love demands the complete and eternal salvation of all the objects of that love in and by the Lord Jesus Christ.

**(5:7-8) - “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die”** - Paul reveals a fact that heightens and illustrates the love of God towards His people. It is reasonable and not necessarily amazing that some would die **“for a good man.”** But consider how God demonstrated His love for His elect who were by nature wicked and evil. Sinners are those who by nature are wholly unclean and corrupt, servants of sin and alienated from God. This removes all notions of salvation conditioned on sinners. According to God’s revealed Word, we know that in reality, among sinful, fallen people, there are no righteous or good men (**Rom. 3:10-12**). All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (**Rom. 3:23**). All without exception are in need of salvation by God’s grace, and no one is able to earn or deserve God’s love, favor, and salvation. But Paul is setting forth a hypothetical to show a contrast between how sinful people naturally view these matters and the reality of the glory, magnitude, and extent of the unconditional love of God to His people - sinners saved by grace. We can understand someone who would give his life for **“a righteous man”** or **“a good man.”** These terms describe a man or a woman who deserves such love and sacrifice.

**“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”** - God’s love towards His people (sinners) is entirely different from the above hypothetical. God’s love is given to SINNERS, those who do not deserve and cannot earn His love. God did not look down through any supposed “telescope of time” to see who would believe in (or cooperate with) Him and thereby determine to love and save them. God proved and manifested His love for His people in that while they were sinners (deserving nothing but His hatred, death, and hell), **“Christ died for us.”** The death of Christ was not a token of God’s love for everyone without exception wherein God was trying to save all without exception if they would do their part. The death of Christ was the assurance of God’s love and salvation for all whom He had chosen and given to Christ before the foundation of the world.

**(5:9) - “Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”** - For whom did Christ die? He died for all the objects of God’s love. What did the death of Christ accomplish for all the objects of God’s love? It accomplished their justification **“by His blood.”** What is it to be **“justified by His blood”**? It is to be totally forgiven of all our sins on the just ground of the death of Christ (**1 John 1:7-9**). It means that our sins cannot be imputed to us because they have been imputed to Christ Who paid our debt to God’s justice in full (**Rom. 4:6-8; 8:32-34**). It means that we are declared righteous before God based on Christ’s righteousness imputed to us. It is the guarantee that **“we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”** Those whom God has justified by the blood of Christ are those for whom Christ died. And those for whom Christ died cannot perish because their sins have been purged by the blood of Christ (**Heb. 10:18-22**).

Justified sinners have no warrant to fear God’s wrath because wrath cannot abide where righteousness is imputed. If we have been justified based solely upon the imputed righteousness of Christ, it is impossible for us to perish. Our sins cannot bring us back under God’s wrath because we have already suffered the full punishment due unto each and every one of those sins in the Person of Christ our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. It is impossible for God’s law to curse us because Christ was made a curse for us (**Gal. 3:13**).