**Loving Our Neighbors**

**The Gospel—The Greatest Love Story Ever Told**

**Love in Spite of Our Sin**

3 truths about God’s love for us

**I. Our Need for God’s Love is Great**

**Romans 1:18** - *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness…*

Outline of the Book of Romans

1. Condemnation: The Need of God’s Righteousness (1:18-3:20)

A. Unrighteous Gentiles (1:18-32)

B. Unrighteous Jews (2:1-3:8)

C. Unrighteous Mankind (3:9-20)

2. Justification: The Provision of God’s Righteousness (3:21-5:21)

3. Sanctification: The Demonstration of God’s Righteousness (6:1-8:39)

4. Restoration: Israel’s Reception of God’s Righteousness (9:1-11:36)

5. Application: The Behavior of God’s Righteousness (12:1-15:13)

A. Helpless

**Romans 5:6** - *For while we were still helpless…*

**Mark 14:38** - *Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

**Luke 10:9-10** - *…and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you…”*

**2 Corinthians 10:10** - *For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible.”*

B. Ungodly

**Romans 5:6** - *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

C. Sinners

**5:8** - *…while we were yet sinners…*

hamartia – missing the mark

D. Deserving of God’s wrath

**Romans 5:9** - *…having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

**Ephesians 2:3** - *… (that we) were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

E. God’s enemies

**Romans 5:10** - *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God…*

**II. The Demonstration of God’s Love is Unmistakable**

A. The perfect time

**Romans 5:6** - *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

“Not only was it the right time in terms of the sweep of history, but it was the right time in the sense that we were powerless to break the chains of sin. We were unable to help ourselves. Bound by sin and destined for an eternity apart from God, no amount of struggle could free us from condemnation. It was for us ‘the right time’ for Christ’s atoning death.” (Robert H. Mounce, Romans (vol. 27; The New American Commentary; Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 136.

B. The perfect payment

**Romans 5:8-9** - *…while we were yet sinners, Christ died…Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

**Hebrews 9:22** - *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

**Luke 1:46-47** - *…My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

C. The perfect demonstration

**Romans 5:7-8** - *For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

demonstrate – to provide evidence of a personal characteristic or claim through action (Arndt, Danker, Bauer, Greek English Lexicon – p. 972-973).

**III. The Effect of God’s Love is Unparalleled**

A. Justified by His blood – v. 9

B. Saved from the wrath of God – v. 9

C. Reconciled to God through the death of His Son – v. 10

D. Shall be saved by His life – v. 10

E. We exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ – v. 11