

# The Greatest Death

---

*Rom. 5:6-11*

## INTRODUCTION

- A. In Washington, D.C., a friendly undertaker closes all his correspondence with “Eventually yours.”
  - 1. We know we shall die--“It is appointed for men to die once” (Heb. 9:27).
  - 2. The thought of dying scares us terribly; therefore we take care of ourselves.
    - a. We exercise and eat right.
    - b. We have an annual check-up with a doctor.
  - 3. Regardless of all we do, we shall die.
- B. The Bible speaks of the “greatest” death, the death of Jesus. Let’s examine what the Bible teaches concerning his death.

## CHRIST’S DEATH WAS FOR US, vv. 6-8

- A. Christ died for us when we were without strength, v. 6.
  - 1. “Without strength” refers to those who are sick, feeble, weak.
  - 2. In this context, the word carries the connotation of “helpless.”
    - a. Before Jesus died for us, we were helpless.
    - b. Without Jesus’ death there is nothing man can do to have salvation.
      - 1) The salvation we do have comes through Jesus.
        - a) “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn. 14:6).
        - b) “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
      - 2) Without the death of Jesus, there is nothing man can do to have salvation.
- B. Christ died for us in due time.
  - 1. Jesus came and died at just the right time--“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Gal. 4:4).
  - 2. God providentially prepared the world to receive his Son.
    - a. The peace brought about by the Roman Empire made it possible for Christian missionaries to move from city to city.
    - b. The excellent roads of the Roman Empire made travel possible.
    - c. The world had a universal language--Greek.
- C. Christ died for the ungodly.
  - 1. When we were in sin, we were the opposite of everything God is--we were ungodly.
  - 2. The ungodly stand to receive God’s strictest judgment.
    - a. The world is “reserved for fire until the day of judgment and the perdition of ungodly men” (2 Pet. 3:7).
    - b. When we were ungodly, we stood to receive God’s judgment.
- D. Men generally do not die for one another, v. 7.
  - 1. Scarcely for a righteous man will one die.
    - a. One who is righteous does what justice and the law require.
    - b. Few would be willing to die for a man such as this.
  - 2. One might die for a good man.
    - a. One who is good does not just do what justice and the law require.
    - b. This is one who does what kindness and mercy suggest--This is one willing to go the extra mile.
    - c. A few might be willing to die for this man.
  - 3. There have been occasions where men did die for one another.
    - a. Men have bravely died in war to protect the rights of others.

- b. Many stories from Nazi concentration camps tell how one prisoner would die to save another.
- 4. Although some men have died for others, they are the exception rather than the rule.
- E. God demonstrates his love toward us through Jesus' death, v. 8.
  - 1. Love which does not demonstrate itself is no love at all.
    - a. If a husband never showed any affection for his wife, she would probably think that he did not love her.
      - 1) We exhibit our love through our actions--We give flowers and candy.
      - 2) God, too, exhibits his love through actions.
    - b. "Demonstrate" means to show, prove, exhibit.
    - c. God proves his love for man through Jesus' death.
      - 1) God proves his love, because Jesus did not have to die.
      - 2) God chose to allow Jesus to die.
  - 2. God demonstrates his love in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
    - a. When Jesus died, man was returning evil for good.
    - b. Man was in sin and showed no desire to leave sin when Jesus died.
  - 3. "For us" means on our behalf, for our benefit. Jesus' death benefits us.
- F. Jesus died for us.
  - 1. Illustration about Harry Truman's bodyguard, *Sermons on the Cross*, p. 60.
  - 2. How do you feel knowing that Jesus died for you?

### **CHRIST'S DEATH BENEFITS US, vv. 9-11**

- A. We have been justified by the blood of Jesus, v. 9.
  - 1. Justification refers to the process where God declares us innocent in his sight.
  - 2. Being justified by faith gives us peace with God (Rom. 5:1).
  - 3. This justification occurs on account of the blood of Jesus.
    - a. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin (Heb. 10:4).
    - b. Yet, the blood of Jesus can take away sin.
  - 4. Illustration about justification, *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, p. 209.
- B. We shall be saved from wrath through Jesus, v. 9.
  - 1. God's wrath will come upon the world.
    - a. "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (Rom. 1:18).
    - b. "The wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 5:6).
  - 2. Through Jesus we shall be saved from wrath.
- C. We have been reconciled to God, v. 10.
  - 1. We had been enemies of God.
    - a. The sin in which we lived made us God's enemies.
    - b. Because God is absolutely holy, he had no choice but to regard us as enemies.
  - 2. But, we have been reconciled through the death of Jesus.
    - a. "To reconcile" means to bring back together.
    - b. Because of Jesus' death, we are able to have a relationship with God.
  - 3. Illustration about reconciliation, *6000 Classic Sermon Illustrations*, #11338, p. 658.
- D. We shall be saved by Jesus' life, v. 10.
  - 1. We were brought back to God through Jesus' death.
  - 2. His continued life brings our salvation.
    - a. The work of Jesus was not completed at his death.
    - b. He was raised back to life, and provides our salvation.
- E. Paul and those with him rejoiced in God through Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus brings rejoicing into our lives.
    - a. After the Ethiopian eunuch had been baptized, he went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39).

- b. The dispersed Christians to whom Peter wrote rejoiced “with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8) in the midst of persecution.
- 2. We have every reason to rejoice in Christ.
  - a. We stand justified before God.
  - b. Our relationship with God has been reconciled.

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. Has Jesus’ death benefitted you?
- B. Are you rejoicing in Christ’?