

# CHRIST DIED FOR US!!

Romans 5:6-11

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## Introduction:

After the Great Chicago fire, many people left that smoldering city. One former businessman journeyed to Australia and earned his fortune. Deciding to return to a rebuilt Chicago, he had his wealth turned into gold dust, and it was poured into pouches on a special moneybelt that he kept around his waist at all times. While crossing the great expanse of ocean returning to America, the ship met with tragedy. As this wealthy man was getting into a lifeboat, he noticed in the distance a little girl about 10 years old beating the water and screaming. Without a moment's hesitation he jumped from the lifeboat and swam to her side.

He gave no thought to his money belt. The ocean water seeped into the pouches and his gold dust was saturated- and took on great weight. This man was strong, but he wasn't strong enough to keep the girl's head above water and his own. He was faced with a decision. Would he release the exhausted girl and see her drown, or would he release his moneybelt and know that all of his gold would sink to the ocean's floor?!

With agony of heart he undid his moneybelt.

The verses before us deal with a much greater sacrifice. Christ didn't just save one drowning girl, He died for the sins of the world- and that death would save multitudes. He gave His life- and He sacrificed something even more valuable than gold...His precious blood. (I Peter 1:18, 19)

Before us this morning are 6 verses that wonderfully proclaim the love of God for the sinner. These 6 verses stand up as a Scriptural sextet- and with their mouths wide open, sing in double forte, "**CHRIST DIED FOR US!**" (v. 8) There is a great deal of Bible truth in those 4 words. With God's help this morning, I want to bring out those Bible truths to you in this message from this classic passage on our Savior's death.

What is so earth-shattering about this one death anyway?! People die every day. Several people die every second around this globe. What made this one death nearly 2,000 years ago so special? **This one death was like no other death.** This death would cause darkness to come at noonday. This death would cause the veil of the temple to be torn in two

from the top to the bottom. This death would cause graves to come open in Jerusalem. This death would bring the Roman centurion to the conclusion, "Truly this was the Son of God." This death was a sin-bearing and sin-paying death. This death would crush the head of that old serpent, the devil. This death would crown the history of mankind as the greatest act of love. And, through this death would eternal life be made possible. As we consider the death of Christ, may we do so with adoration and appreciation. From these 4 words - "Christ Died For Us"- and from our text of 6 verses, we are going to observe Four Dynamic Descriptions of the Death of Christ.

Prayer

## 1. THE STRATEGIC TIMING OF CHRIST'S DEATH v. 6

Our God does nothing in a haphazard, aimless way. His timing is precise. God's clock is accurate, yet He is not bound by time. Our God is the God of eternity, but when He chooses to break into mankind's time, He does so with the utmost precision. Galatians 4:4 tells us that God sent forth His Son "in the fullness of time." Jesus Christ came at just the right time. Our text says, "...**in due time** Christ died for the ungodly." Hodge has the following to say about this phrase: *"This may mean, at the appointed, or at the appropriate time. The former is more in accordance with the analogy of Scripture."* Verse 6 is saying, "Jesus had an appointment with death and He kept it."

Jesus Christ was and is omniscient. During His 33 years on earth He had perfect knowledge. He knew how He was going to die, where He was going to die, and when He was going to die!! His steps took Him throughout Judaea, Galilee- and even Samaria, but those steps were all focused on climbing Golgotha's hill.

The Book of Daniel has a very interesting prophecy relating to the time of Christ's death. Daniel prophecies of a period of 70 weeks- each week representing 7 years. These 70 weeks were divided into 3 sections: 7 weeks (49 years) to the rebuilding of Jerusalem; 62 weeks (434 years) to Messiah the Prince; then, a final week (7 years)- which is the 7 year tribulation period. Daniel 9:26a prophecies, **"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:"** The very time of Christ's death was prophesied.

On the way to the Garden of Gethsemane from the Last Supper, Jesus prays a beautiful prayer. In the opening words of that prayer He says, *"Father the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify*

thee." (John 17:1) Yes, there was a strategic timing to the death of Christ and the hour of Christ's death was according to an eternal schedule.

A 2nd Dynamic Description-

## 2. THE SACRIFICIAL BENEFIT OF CHRIST'S DEATH (vs.6-8)

In verses 6 through 8 we see the preposition "**for**" four times. The Greek word here is **HUPER** and has a two-fold meaning. *Kenneth Wuest says the following about this word: "The preposition HUPER means 'for the sake of, in behalf of, instead of.' Thus our Lord died instead of us, taking our penalty, and in behalf of us, in that His death was in our interest."*

Christ's death was sacrificial and beneficial. This truth is found all through the Scriptures. The Old Testament contains a chapter that you would think was found in the Gospels. Isaiah 53, though written 800 years before Christ, is like reading an eye-witness account of the crucifixion. Listen to just one verse from that great chapter: "**But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**" Christ's death truly was sacrificial and beneficial.

Christ was our Substitute. I am reminded of that great hymn, Man of Sorrows. The second verse of that great hymn by Philip Bliss reads, "*Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood; Sealed my pardon with His blood; Hallelujah! What a Savior!*" He died for our sake! Our interest was all He had in mind. The thought of our pardon helped Him endure the pain. What love!! Which leads us to the 3rd dynamic description of His death in verses 7 and 8.

## 3. THE SUPERNATURAL LOVE OF CHRIST'S DEATH

(vs. 7 & 8)

Verse 7 shows the extent to which human love can stretch. Human love, when faced with death, would be willing to die for a righteous man. Divine love, when faced with death, went far beyond human love. Jesus didn't die for good people...He died for sinners. **While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

There are 3 descriptions of the sinner in our text:

A. **The Weak** Verse 6 says, "For when we were yet without strength..." Before salvation, we were completely helpless to save ourselves. We were

destitute of spiritual strength. There was absolutely nothing we could do to save ourselves.

B. **The Wicked** Our passage calls each of us "ungodly sinners!" Our sinfulness was absolutely repulsive to the eye of God, but still- Christ died for us!! Jeremiah 17:9 says, *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* We don't like to be thought of as wicked, but that is how God saw each of us before we were saved. We were sin-sick. Isaiah 1:6 says, *"From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."* We were weak and wicked, but still Christ died for us! Paul gives one more description of the sinner in verse 10.

C. **The Warring** Yes, we were enemies!! The sinful heart turns hostile against a Holy God. Man-kind's belligerence surfaces in many ways. Pride, stubbornness, rebellion--these all defiantly raise a fist in God's face. (Quote- Peace Through The Cross) Jesus didn't die for His friends, He died for His enemies.

The love of Christ was unconditional, unselfish and unending. This sacrificial love was volitional--Christ chose to love us. This powerful love was demonstrated!! Notice the word commendeth in verse 8. This word means, **"proves, or renders conspicuous."** God's love for us is very conspicuous. I John 3:18 says, *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* John was saying, "Go beyond just words! Show each other your love by your actions." God could not have proven His love in a more obvious way than the Cross! I would say that Jesus' love for us was conspicuous as He was hanging naked for 6 hours in front of a crowd of jeering Jews. Those Jews were representative of all of mankind. The jeering, the mocking, the cursing...came from your lips and mine. The Roman soldiers were representative of all mankind as they drove the large spikes into His precious, sinless body. **God's love for the sinner was demonstrated--He conspicuously proved that He loved fallen sinners. What a supernatural love.**

1. **THE STRATEGIC TIMING OF CHRIST'S DEATH** (v. 6)

2. **THE SACRIFICIAL BENEFIT OF CHRIST'S DEATH** (vs. 6-8)

3. **THE SUPERNATURAL LOVE OF CHRIST'S DEATH**

(vs.7 & 8)

This brings us to the 4th and final dynamic description of Christ's death.

What does this death mean to those of us who have been saved? What is the significance of Christ's death?

#### 4. **THE SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF CHRIST'S DEATH**

(vs.9-11)

The results are four-fold:

##### A. **Our Standing: He Has Declared Us Innocent** v.9a

The precious blood of Christ has cleansed us and clothed us! We now stand dressed in His robe of righteousness!! **No longer are we clothed in our filthy rags, but His flawless robe.** (Isa. 61:10 says, *"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."*) We are cleared of all guilt through the justifying blood of Jesus Christ!

##### B. **Our Salvation: He Has Delivered Us From Wrath** v.9b

Charles Hodge says, "There is not only a wicked opposition of the sinner to God, but a holy opposition of God to the sinner." (P.138) God's wrath is clearly taught in John 3:36 where it states that the wrath of God presently rests upon the unbeliever. Men question hell. Liberal theologians would have us believe it doesn't exist. Think of that word **saved** for just a moment. If there is no place called hell where the lost are in torment day and night forever and ever...then what are we being saved from?? God's hatred of sin is so intense that He created hell for the devil and his angels who fell from heaven. (Matt. 25:41) The believer has been delivered from hell and the lake of fire!!

##### C. **Our Solidarity: He Has Dismantled The Wall Of Separation and Hostility** v.10

I'm not using the word "solidarity" in the political sense- but in a spiritual sense. The solidarity or oneness that we have with God has been made possible through the wonderful doctrine of reconciliation. Jesus died for His enemies to make them His friends. The separation, the barrier, the wall has been dismantled by the death of Christ. Listen carefully as I read

Ephesians 2:13 through 18. (Explanation) The wall is down. Now, there is access. Now, there is peace. Now, there is a relationship of harmony.

**D. Our Song: He Has Delighted Our Despairing Soul** v.11

The sinner was in despair. His condition was hopeless. Because we have been justified, because we have been delivered from wrath, because we have been reconciled...we have a wonderful joy from God. Let me comment on the word atonement in verse 11. Both Hodge and Wuest agree that the Greek meaning here is reconciliation. Atonement means to cover. If you break the word down in syllables- you see "at-one-ment." When we are reconciled, we are **at one** with God. (This idea of "at-one-ment" was the intent of the translators.) We now can rejoice because of our reconciled relationship!! No longer are we foes of God, but friends of God. Psalm 40:1-3 speak of our song: **"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."**

From this wonderful passage of 6 verses we have seen-

1. **The Strategic Timing of Christ's Death** (v.6)
  2. **The Sacrificial Benefit of Christ's Death** (vs.6-8)
  3. **The Supernatural Love of Christ's Death** (vs.7 & 8)
  4. **The Significant Results of Christ's Death** (vs.9-11)
- A. **Our Standing: He Has Declared Us Innocent**
  - B. **Our Salvation: He Has Delivered Us From Wrath**
  - C. **Our Solidarity: He Has Dismantled The Wall Of Separation and Hostility**
  - D. **Our Song: He Has Delighted Our Despairing Soul**

**Closing Illustration:**

## THE TITANTIC

On Thursday April 11, 1912 it leaves from Queenstown, Ireland

Friday and Saturday it sails through calm, clear weather

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:40 an iceberg strikes the starboard side of the bow

There are only lifeboats for only half of the 2,227 people on board

At 12:45 the 1st lifeboat is lowered with 28 people—designed to hold 65

At 2:20 a.m. the Titanic sinks with over 1,500 people in the ice-cold Atlantic

Back at the Shipyard in England was the Information Center for loved ones

Two large signs were erected with large letters reading:

Those known to be Saved

Those known to be Lost

Invitation