

appnotes

DAY READ ROMANS 5:6-11

1

Is God crazy? I mean, we understand the noble love that moves a parent to sacrifice their life to save a child. Some are even willing to risk their lives so that others can live in freedom. In our best moments, we can forgive someone who has deeply wronged us. But would we let our loved one die to rescue an enemy? And God? He did all that and more. "You see, at the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." God's love far outstrips our own. His love moved Him to offer His own Son for His enemies. When we were headed for Hell He stepped in and provided a way out. And even though the price was high, He did it willingly to win you back.

DAY READ JOHN 3:16-17

2

If God sat down across from you right now, what do you think He would say? Would He remind you of your failures? Would He keep His distance? Would His eyes be filled with disappointment? Maybe you wouldn't expect much emotion at all, just a pronouncement of judgment. John 3:16 may be the most familiar verse in the Bible. But it is certainly the least understood. If we understood it, we wouldn't run from God, we would run to Him. Verse seventeen could not make it any clearer. God sent Jesus to free us from the prison we deserve - not put us into one. God loved the worthless, washed up, and beat up so much that gave His precious Son as a sacrifice to save their souls from destruction. Is it time for you to have a conversation with God that you have been avoiding?

DAY READ ROMANS 8:1-4

3

We are good at hiding our sins from ourselves. We compare our mistakes to people who don't do as well as we do. We forgive our weaknesses and rationalize our poor decisions. But we all have times when the truth breaks through. When we look in the mirror and see ourselves clearly. When we see our repeat offenses as what they are: sin. And if we are honest we know, that even though we are not as bad as we could be, there is enough bad to deserve God's punishment. That's what makes the Apostle Paul's statement so revolutionary. He says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For those who have accepted God's free gift of grace, there is nothing from your past, present, or future that will bring you divine judgment. There is no Hell for the helpless who have received God's grace.

DAY READ 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-15

4

Do you have a high pain tolerance? Do you dread the dentist? Do you put ice on a stubbed toe? Do you sit the bench after getting a bruise? In today's passage, the Apostle Paul shares that he has been facing a world of pain. The pain is physical, emotional, and unpredictable. But instead of giving up, he gets fired up. He is motivated by one thought: "I will hurt a little today so that others do not have to go to Hell forever." He knew that his efforts could change where someone would spend eternity. Every bruise was for someone else's benefit. Every pain worth it because more and more would be reached with the message of God's grace. What are you willing to do to see one more find God?

DAY READ 2 PETER 3:8-9

5

Where is God? It is the question we ask when tragedy strikes and pain penetrates our world. We wonder how God could allow the agony, how the world could be so full of injustice. This topic is too big to unpack in one paragraph, but today's passage gives us some helpful context for the conversation. Peter points out that, time doesn't work the same way for God like it does for us. And one day, we will see our short time on Earth in light of eternity. Then Peter assures us that God is not giving anyone a free pass. He doesn't wink at sin. He hasn't forgotten a single slip-up or act of evil. God is just and will punish every evil. There are two ways this plays out: either Jesus takes our punishment or we will. The amazing thing is that God has enough patience and love to hold off the punishment so that more would turn to Him.

AppNotes are available on our Facebook page, Monday-Friday.

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