

## Studies in Romans

### The Love of God (5:5-8)

#### Context

- **1:1-17 Introduction**
- **1:18-4:25 The problem and God's solution**
  - 1:18-3:20 The problem: God's wrath at our unrighteousness
  - 3:21-4:25 God's solution: justification by faith
- **5:1-8:39 What it means to be justified by faith**
  - 5:1-11 If we are justified, we will be saved from God's wrath
  - 5:12-21 Through His death, Christ has established a realm of righteousness, which will supersede the realm of sin and death (established by Adam) in which all mankind naturally lives.

“For...” (5:6) – *what's it there for?*

**Romans 5:1f** – the wonderful benefits of being justified by faith:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with God
2. An introduction into \_\_\_\_\_
3. We rejoice in hope of the \_\_\_\_\_
4. We can \_\_\_\_\_ in our sufferings

*How can we rejoice in our sufferings?*

*What is it that we know?*

Three things:

- We know that tribulation brings about \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3b)
- We know that perseverance brings about \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4b)
- We know that proven character brings about \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4b)

But doesn't suffering do the opposite? Doesn't it make you doubt God's love? No, not at all. Look at Paul's argument. The sequence is tribulation to perseverance to character to hope. And then Paul adds, “And hope does not put us to shame...” *Why? What is the ultimate foundation on which our Christian hope rests?*

**Principle: suffering is the best context in which to become assured of God's love.**

So now the big question is: how can we know God loves us? How can we be sure of God's love (and therefore know that our hope will not be disappointed)?

This is what **Romans 5:5-8** is all about...

First “angle”— if someone performs an act of love toward you, there are a number of ways you can see the depth of that love.

1. **The \_\_\_\_\_ of the deed**
2. **How \_\_\_\_\_ the object of love is**

See also **Matthew 5:46–47**.

**3. The greatness of the \_\_\_\_\_ secured**

See also **1 John 3:1**.

**4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the act**

Second “angle” – look at what Paul teaches us here:

**1. He points to the need of God’s love.**

*Take note of the ways that our need is described in these verses. How needy were we?*

**2. He points to the timing of God’s love.**

*How does Paul describe God’s timing?*

See **Galatians 4:4**.

**3. Paul points to an exchange that has taken place**

**4. Paul points to the proof of God’s love.**

Christopher Ash: “It is the past tense proof of the love God has for us. The Spirit (**v. 5**) takes this past tense proof and brings it home to our hearts in the present tense, so that we know here and now that God loves us.”

Michael Eaton lists a number of things that can help us if we haven’t experienced God’s love for us:

1. Begin by trusting in the blood of Jesus Christ.
2. Are you grieving the Spirit?
3. Live by the promise of **John 7:37-39**. “If any person is thirsty let Him come to me and drink...Out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.”

## **For further discussion**

(Perhaps choose one or more to think about further or to discuss in a group)

- *How has God demonstrated His love (vv. 6-8)? Being honest, where do we normally look to gauge God’s view of us day to day? Where should we look?*
- *How is God’s love in Jesus deeper than any human love?*
- *Imagine that tragedy strikes in the life of a Christian friend. He starts to doubt that God loves him and then worries that he is not a real Christian because if he were, God wouldn’t have let this happen. How would you begin to answer him?*