



**Title: Romans and the Future Gospel**

**Text: Romans 5:6-11**

**Date: December 11, 2022**

**Main Idea: GOD'S LOVE HAS EXCHANGED OUR SIN FOR HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**

## **Personal Study Guide**

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**READ ROMANS 5:6-11**

## **Highlight – What stands out?**

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1. What stands out to you in this passage?

2. What key words do you notice? What repeated phrases or words do you notice?
3. In Romans 5:6-11, Paul elaborates on God's love (5:5) with 3 sentences that begin with 'for'. Write these sentences here.
4. What are the connecting words or phrases in these verses? What ideas do they connect to one another?
5. Romans 5:6-11 depicts the "great exchange" or our reconciliation by and to God. What does Paul say is exchanged?
6. "The right time" is a recurring theme for Paul. How is this included in Romans 5:6-11?

## **Explain – What does this mean?**

In Romans 1-3 Paul has presented the case that ALL people, Jew and Gentile, are enemies with God with NO way to be saved in themselves. God's judgment is true because God is just and sovereign. The law is incapable and incomplete in itself, leaving all humanity in need of rescue from God's

wrath. The gospel is God's plan for this predicament and as we see in Romans 4 begins with faith. Not faith in circumcision, heritage or law-keeping deeds, but faith in the person of Jesus and His offer to take us from being enemies with God to making us right with God.

In Romans 5 Paul offers his readers a new view of God that for many of them (and us) changes everything. In verse 5 he describes God's motive behind His plan; His reason for the gospel. Love. Love that is more than feelings or sentiments. Love that causes God to act.

God loves us. Even in our sin God loves us. Even when we were enemies with God, God loved us. Because He loved us and loves us still, He offers us, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, peace with Him. This peace comes through faith that Jesus can remove our sins which take us *away from* God and can reconcile us *to* God. "The Greek verb *katallassō* basically means *to change* or *exchange*. It was often used as a monetary term referring to *changing* or *exchanging* money, but in general it referred to *exchanging* one thing for another. A common use of *katallassō* was in reference to *changing* someone from an enemy into a friend, that is, bringing together or *reconciling* two people or parties that are at odds with each other" (<https://csbible.com/>). His sacrifice makes it possible for us to be justified before God for now and all eternity.

1. Romans 5:8 has been described as the "John 3 :16 of Romans"? Look up John 3:16 and explain why you think this is the case?
2. Romans 5:6-11 provide very rich explanations of the PROOF of God's love, each beginning with the word "for". Write how Paul describes God' active love.
3. In verses 6-11 Paul uses the concept of time in significant ways. Use the table to explore words and phrases what illustrate "time":

Verse	Past	Present	Future


4. Paul paints a word picture of the “great exchange” made possible through Jesus. Use the chart to list terms that are used in Romans 5:6-11:

Before Jesus	After Jesus

5. Look up the following verses. Summarize into your own words the biblical principle of reconciliation listed in these verses: Acts 3:19, Colossians 1:20-22, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Ephesians 2:15-18, Ephesians 1:3-10.

6. **Christmas Connection:** It might seem strange to add a Christmas connection to a series in Romans, but don’t be fooled! This text fits perfectly with the reason we are celebrating this season. Look up John 1:14-18, Galatians 4:4-5, Philippians 2:5-7. How do these verses connect to our Romans passage? How does our Romans passage speak to the hope that this season brings for us as Christians?

## **Apply – How does this change me?**

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1. Describe your life as an “enemy” of God. Now think about verses 6-8 and what that means about God’s heart towards you? If someone were to ask you “How do I know God loves me?” how would you use these verses to explain your answer?
2. Paul speaks to a past, present, and future component of our salvation. Christ died for us when we were still sinners. Christ has presently given us reconciliation to God. And God will one day deliver us to eternal life. How does all this knowledge lead you to hope today?

## **Respond – What’s my next step?**

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1. Do you know someone who is an enemy to God? Or is there someone in your life who is hard to love because they are an enemy of God and you? Pray for their reconciliation. Share with them your own story of being a sinner who has been made right with God through faith in Jesus.

2. In Romans 5:6-11 Paul uses plural pronouns - we, our, us and implores us to rejoice *together* now in our reconciliation. As Christmas approaches, what are practical ways you can rejoice with others in God's love as shown through the gift of the gospel? What does this look like for you to celebrate that God is with us—Immanuel?
  
3. **Worship Connection:** As Christians, our worship includes singing, but is not just about singing. But in our singing, our songs reflect what we believe about God and what he has done through his Son, Jesus Christ. Last week we sang "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." This is a familiar song, but read through the lyrics and circle or underline all the places Romans 5:6-11 is alluded to in these lyrics.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

## Commentary: Romans 5:6-11 by F.F. Bruce

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**Note to Group Leaders:** This commentary as well as the resources can help give you insight as you teach the lesson.

*God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.* This reference to the Spirit's work in the believer anticipates the fuller account given below in chapter 8. His indwelling presence is the pledge of that glory for which the believer hopes. The love which is his primary 'fruit' (Gal. 5:22) has its origin in God and is reproduced in the children of God.

**6.** *At the right time.* That is, at the time of greatest need, when nothing but his death would help.

*Christ died for the ungodly.* And therefore the paradox of 4:5, that God 'justifies the ungodly', is seen to be righteously based.

**7-8.** *Perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.* 'A good man' is literally 'the good man' (RV), where the definite article indicates a particular type of man. There is little distinction between 'righteous' and 'good' in this verse; 'good' represents *agathos*, not *chrēstos* ('kindly'). Some would take 'good' as neuter here, as though it denoted a good cause rather than a good man, but this is unlikely. 'Even for one who is righteous or good', Paul argues, 'you will scarcely find any one willing to sacrifice his life—well, perhaps a few people might go so far as to do so—but God shows his love for us in Christ's sacrificing his life for those who were neither righteous nor good, but ungodly sinners' (cf. 1 John 4:10).

**9.** *Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood.* His 'blood', as in 3:25, denotes his sacrificial death; 'by his blood' here is parallel to 'by the death of his Son' in verse 10.

*Much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.* Lit. 'from the wrath'; the RSV addition 'of God' is exegetical (cf. 12:19). In 1 Thessalonians 1:10 Jesus is called our deliverer 'from the wrath to come'; here, as there, the outpouring of judgment at the end-time is in view. See also 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 'God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Those who have been pronounced righteous by God can rejoice already in their deliverance from the end-time 'wrath'.

**10.** *While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.* Cf. Colossians 1:21–22, 'And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death.' The hostility and estrangement which require to be removed lie in human beings, not in God; it is he who takes the initiative in good will by providing 'the redemption which is in Christ Jesus'.

*Much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.* That is, by his present resurrection life. This statement is expanded below in 6:8–11.

**11.** *Through whom we have now received our reconciliation.* Where reconciliation is mentioned in the New Testament, God or Christ is always the reconciler, and human beings are the object (or among the objects) of his reconciling act. God 'through Christ reconciled us to himself; men and women are accordingly summoned in Christ's name to 'be reconciled to God' (2 Cor. 5:18, 20). The situation may be compared to that of a king proclaiming an amnesty for rebellious subjects, who are urged to accept his gracious pardon while it is extended to them. God's abhorrence of sin does not make him the enemy of sinners or seek their ill; his desire is for all 'to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth' (1 Tim. 2:4).<sup>1</sup>

## Additional Resources:

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**Podcast:** [Help Me Teach the Bible with Michael Kruger on Romans 1-7](#)

**Podcast:** [Knowing Faith: Justified By Faith \(Romans 5:1-11\)](#)

**Podcast:** [Knowing Faith: Why the Blood? \(Romans 5:9\)](#)

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<sup>1</sup> F. F. Bruce, [Romans: An Introduction and Commentary](#), vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 127–129.



**Video:** [Romans 5-16 The Bible Project](#)

Read then share the book **Peace with God** by Billy Graham.