

# **Easter Sunday**

## **More Than We Dared Believe, More Than We Dared Hope**

### **Romans 5:6-10**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 20, 2025*

**Romans 5:6-10** “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

#### **I. You're worse off than you'd ever dare to believe.**

**Romans 5:6-8** “For while we were still **weak**, at the right time Christ died for the **ungodly**. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows His love for us in that while we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us.”

- A. “weak” — not just bad choices, but powerless to do that which is right
- B. “ungodly” — opposed to God’s nature and rule
- C. “sinful” — not neutral, but decidedly against God & His ways

#### **II. You're more loved than you'd ever dare to imagine.**

**Romans 5:8** “...but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- A. “shows” — the cross wasn’t just a historical event, but an ongoing reminder of Christ’s love for us
- B. “while we were still sinners” — not after we cleaned up; not because we believed; but while we were sinners
  - a. Jesus didn’t die for us because we were lovable, but because He is love and loved us first.

**1 John 4:8-10, 15-19** “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins...<sup>15</sup> Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because **He first loved us**.”

#### **III. Jesus is alive — and that changes everything!**

**Romans 5:9-10** “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, **much more** shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled to God by the death of His Son**, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be **saved by His life**.”

- A. “much more” — If He loved us while we were lost sinners, how much more does He love us now that we are reconciled to Him!
- B. “reconciled to God by the death of His Son” — the cross reconciles us
- C. “saved by His life” — the resurrection empowers our salvation and life with Christ
- D. Resurrection isn’t just “proof.” It’s power!

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

Keller, Timothy. *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*. Dutton, 2011.

- E. The empty tomb isn’t just evidence of what happened. It’s an invitation to what can happen—in you.

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. What do you tend to downplay more - your sin or God’s love? Why do you think that is?
2. How does understanding yourself as “weak,” “ungodly,” and “a sinner” change the way you view Christ’s death for you?
3. If Jesus loved us “while we were still sinners,” what does that say about how secure our relationship with Him is now?
4. “Saved by His life” (Romans 5:10) points to the power of the resurrection. In what ways are you relying on that power in your daily life—or not?
5. Reread Romans 5:6-8. How does that help those who feel they’re “too far gone” to be right with God?