

Week 20
135/230

Transforming Daily
“ . . . God demonstrates His own love toward us . . . ”
Romans 5:8

I'm sure you've heard the saying, "Talk is cheap?" The Word of God bears out that sentiment when Paul tells the believer not to be hearers of the Word only, but more importantly, doers of the Word. One moment of demonstration is worth hours of explanation. That's what this passage of Scripture is getting at.

The message in this text concerns the love of God for mankind. The demonstration of His love is revealed in the crucifixion of Christ on our behalf. By the way, God's Word *is* Jesus Christ (John 1:1, 14). However, it's not enough that God sent His Son as our substitutionary atonement, but that He did it while we were yet sinning. God didn't wait for us to be perfect (which would never happen) before expressing His love toward us, but before His creative act (recorded in Genesis), God ordained it to be so that Christ would be slain to take away the sins of the world (1 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 13:8).

The theological understanding of this expression of love is called "unconditional love." The believer is charged to love unconditionally, but God is the only one who can truly express His love without natural prejudice, predisposition, and presumption. Nevertheless, it is our goal to love unconditionally. Knowing first that the believer doesn't deserve God's love, grace and mercy, but receives it freely by faith, and then the believer is better prepared to exercise God's love unconditionally with others.

Notice that the text designates this love as "His own" love. God's love is like no other love. It is perfect and pure. His love cannot be bought, borrowed, or stolen, and don't miss this, His love cannot be repaid (nor does He require repayment). The only condition God requires concerning His love is that the individual freely receive His love, and freely give it.

Have you freely received His love? Do you have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ? If so, do you fellowship with Him daily? Are you growing in the grace, beauty and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you sharing with others that through Christ God demonstrates His own love toward us?