

DRIVE: The Nature Of God's Love

Lesson 1: God's Love Reaches For Us

This week we looked at the pursuing nature of God's love. The words of Paul from **Romans 5:6-8** show us the beautiful picture of God's love reaching out to us through Jesus.

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:6-8***

- **What are some of the things Bill said that let you know how much he loved working on vehicles?**
- **What was the first clue that this was a troubled young man?**
- **What could Bill have done when the sheriff called?**
- **Why do you think Bill did not tell the sheriff about the young man? What ways did Bill use to reach out to the young man?**
- **When the sheriff called and Bill found out the stranger had stolen money from a lady in town, what could the young man do at that point to stay out of jail?**

Romans was written by Paul, a devout Jew who used to kill Christians before God changed his life. Paul wrote almost half of the books in the New Testament, and his book to the Romans is an awesome explanation of salvation and God's love. In the chapters before our Bible study passage, Paul presents a clear picture of sin and how we as people stand hopeless before a holy God.

- **Looking at Romans 5:6, what are some of the words your version of the Bible uses to describe man's condition, standing before God as sinners? What does that mean?**

Since we are all sinners we have absolutely no way, in our power, to fix the broken relationship we are born into with God. No matter how strong we are, no matter how determined we are, no matter how positive we are, we are powerless to fix the gap between God and ourselves.

- **What did God do that allows us sinners to have a relationship with Him?**

God sent Jesus to take on our sinful nature and die for us. God was one who initiated this act of love, and His love is always reaching out to us.

In the video Bill reached out in love to the young man, even when he found out the stranger had broken the law by stealing from a lady in town. God's love is like that, always taking the first step toward us even though we don't deserve that love.

Read verses 7-8.

- **Can you name the three types of people Paul mentioned in the verses? Do you know what those words mean?**

*The **righteous** were those who kept the laws of God and did just what they were suppose to, but no more. **The godly (good)** kept the law and went above and beyond to help people and take care of those in need. **The ungodly** were non-Jews and those considered as outcast in God's eyes.*

- **What does the whole "dying for some and not others" thing mean?**

Paul's point was that if it came down to one man giving up his life for another, it would be hard to find anyone to die for the righteous since they did only what was required by the Jewish law. You might find someone to die for the good since they always went way beyond the law and were usually well thought of in the community. No one would even think about dying an ungodly person.

- **So what was Paul saying?**

While no one in Paul's day would ever give up his life for all three groups of people recognized by the Jews, Jesus did. In fact, according to Paul we all are the ungodly when it comes to our sinful nature.

God's love reaches out to ALL people. Even today the call to salvation is to all because Christ died for all. We did nothing to deserve salvation and that makes the reaching out aspect of God's love even more incredible. Jesus' death for our sin was a demonstration of God's love. **And what a demonstration it was!**

In the video Bill was working on a truck in his shop when he met a young man, a stranger in town. During a phone call from the sheriff the young man hears Bill acknowledge his stealing from a lady in town and realizes he is busted. Rather than turn the young man in, Bill reaches out to him by getting him to work for him for a few days. God's love reaches out to us because as we stand before God, busted because of our sin, He offers us hope and salvation. Just like the young man, ***we did nothing to deserve this act of love.*** It was all about God reaching out to us while we were still ungodly sinners.

Think of some ways you can remind yourself of God's love for you?

Last night some ideas mentioned were, reading God's word, praying, listening to worship music, go outside and look at nature to remind us of all God has created.

Think of some ways this week you can extend God's love to others this week?

Last night some ideas mentioned were: try to work God into conversations with your friends, break the ice by being funny, then get serious, pray for your friends, family, live differently so others can see Christ in you.