

Romans 5:6-15

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man’s offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many”.

Without Strength

Several years ago a family was sailing off the coast of Florida when their boat capsized in a large wave. All the members of the family managed to climb onto the overturned boat and cling to the keel. For several days they drifted with no nourishment except a seagull they managed to kill. When the current began finally to drift them toward shore, and rescue seemed in sight, the youngest child lost hold and slipped into the sea. Due to the weakness of the remaining family members, they could do nothing but watch the sea swallow their loved one.

Our hearts are torn by the thoughts of the agony in which that family must have gone through, an agony comparable to that of God's as He views countless numbers of people slip into eternity in view of the safety of eternal life found in His Son, Jesus Christ. Scripture states: "We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away... how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him." (Hebrews 2:1,3 NIV)

For each individual who has heard (or read) of God's free offer of salvation by faith through the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of Jesus, there is a window of opportunity. This is not an opportunity to prove oneself before God, sin prevents this (Romans 3), but an opportunity to accept a gift from God: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV).

Unlike the family members who were powerless to help their youngest, God has secured the means of spiritual rescue from eternal loss by dealing with the penalty and the power of sin on the Cross of Calvary. It is now up to each individual to reach out by faith and be saved. Like Jacob, who wrestled with the Lord, we must be determined to "cling until blessed". (Genesis 32). The beauty of that expression of faith is that no one will ever be disappointed, Jesus' promise is always kept: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 5:6, 10:13 NIV)

What is my response:
