

## God Demonstrates His Love!

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by Wayne Goff

***“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” (Rom. 5:8-9).***

“Demonstrates” means “to place in a striking point of view” (*Mounce Greek Dictionary*). There is no better demonstration to the world of the love of God than Jesus Christ! In the words of Marvin Vincent, “God continuously establishes His love in that the death of Christ remains as its most striking manifestation” (*Word Studies in the NT*, III:60).

Jesus Himself explained the thought when He said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13). For whom would you give *your* life? It’s fair to say the list is quite short. But one can offer no greater love to another person than to *sacrifice the rest of his life* for another.

**Why did God do this?** It surely wasn’t because of man’s virtue! The text says that God did this while we were still “sinners” (deviants from the path of virtue)! No, my friends, God did this in spite of us. It was because of “His own love” for us. It is part of His intrinsic nature, and this thought should endear everyone of us to Him! Please don’t let your *familiarity* with the Gospel story cause the meaning to be lost!

Furthermore, the text goes on to say, “*having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*” “Wrath” means “vengeance, punishment” (*Mounce*). Some may wish to emphasize God’s love while ignoring His wrath, but the Bible makes both plain! As great as His love is, just as great is His judicial wrath (see 2 Thess. 1:6-8). There are gigantic reasons for both, some of which you and I will never understand. But a just, righteous God must do what His nature demands. Better to submit to the conditions of the Gospel than to chance *understanding(?)* His wrath later! How great is heaven, how horrible is hell, that God would put His beloved Son on the cruel cross of Calvary?! Dear reader, the stakes are higher than we can ever know.

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