

God's Overflowing Love!

"Overflow" Series- Part 02

Share/Connect time: *If you could live your life over, what would you do differently? What one thing would your spouse want you to do differently?*

An illustration for our life – I think most Christian believers would agree with the following statement: “*God is love*”. Today as we consider this Bible truth, let’s look at it in the light of the following statement made by the renowned Bible commentator, Arthur W. Pink:

There are many who talk about the love of God, who are total strangers to the God of love. The divine love is commonly regarded as a species of amiable weakness, a sort of good-natured indulgence; it is reduced to a mere sickly sentiment, patterned after human emotion. The truth is that on this, as on everything else, our thoughts need to be formed and regulated by what is revealed in Scripture. That there is urgent need for this is apparent not only from the ignorance which so generally prevails, but also from the low state of spirituality which is now so sadly evident everywhere among professing Christians. How little real love there is for God. One chief reason for this is because our hearts are so little occupied with His wondrous love for His people. The better we are acquainted with His love—its character, fullness, blessedness—the more our hearts will be drawn out in love to Him. Arthur. W. Pink, Gleanings in the Godhead (Chicago: Moody Press, 1975), p. 72.

Can you relate to Pink’s experience of feeling that many people do not fully appreciate the love of God? Give an example.

What do you suppose is the major preoccupation of God’s love if it is not for His people?

Some small children were asked, “What is true love?” Without hesitation this little guy spoke up, “Love is when your mommy reads you a bedtime story. **True love** is when she doesn’t skip any pages.”

In the Scriptures, God has not skipped any pages in expressing his love for us and outlining the kind of relationship into which he has called us. One of the great examples of His love is found in the book of Romans:

Book: Romans 5:1-11

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Rom 5:2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

Rom 5:3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

Rom 5:4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Rom 5:5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Rom 5:6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

Rom 5:7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good.

Rom 5:8 But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Rom 5:9 And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

Rom 5:10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son.

Rom 5:11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Let's get into the Word:

When you read verses 1-2, what really jumps out to you? How does it define the love of God?

Many times we experience difficult things in life that are discouraging and we may doubt the love of God. In verses 3-5, Paul addresses these times and presents the experiences in a potential positive light. What is the "good" we can find in the "bad"?

How have you personally experienced what Paul has expressed?

Which verses in our text demonstrate the love that God has for sinners?

How can we overflow with that same kind of love toward sinners?

Paul states that we have a guarantee that we have a forever relationship with God. How does Paul go about insuring that truth?

A challenge to consider:

Can you identify someone who is very difficult for you to love right now?

How do today's scriptures challenge you as you think about that person?

What would God have you to do in the next week as it relates to this person?

In what way, does the love of God overwhelm you when you think about how God loves you?