

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

Romans 5:6-8 "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."

It the nick of time is a saying you have probably heard. It means that in the face of what appeared to be a certain disaster someone or something came to the rescue. A life was saved or an essential building was spared or . . . You have the picture, don't you?

Paul writes, "at just the right time. . ." When there was no doubt that humanity was powerless to overcome its absence of spiritual life, when all people were ungodly, when the world was filled with hostility to God, Christ came into the world to rescue all who were lost and headed to hell.

It is not hard to understand how a father risks his own life to save his one and only son from drowning. You comprehend how a mother's love is so strong she will do anything to keep her son or daughter alive. It is more difficult to believe that someone who has no relationship with the drowning child or the son or daughter who is in danger of dying will risk to their own life and even more improbable is they know they will die to make the rescue. Yet, ". . .at just the right time, when we (you) were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."

There are two differences in Jesus sacrificing His life to save the lives of the ungodly. First, He voluntarily gave His life on Calvary's cross for all the ungodly, not for just one person, out of His love for them and desire that their sins would be paid in full. Secondly, where one person on earth can give their life to save the life of one or perhaps a few others, Jesus' sacrifice was for all people. Paul's point in verses 6-8 is that Jesus died for the ungodly when they were ungodly. There was no indication they were ready to give up their ungodliness.

The supreme act of love by Jesus was He who was innocent gave His life for those who were guilty. He held nothing back. He gave His all that those who should be condemned would through Him become reconciled with their Father in heaven. This is the great exchange of Jesus. He the innocent Son of God took the

ungodliness of the ungodly upon Himself and gave them His sinlessness. This is the basis of your salvation and certainty of an eternal life in heaven.

Prayer: Grant me, Dear Father, through Your Son's sacrifice, Your forgiveness of my sins and wrap me in His robes of righteousness. In His name. Amen.

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conquering arm.
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life: Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.
(LSB 526)