Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Romans 5:5-6 (NLT) 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. <sup>6</sup> When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

Romans 5:7-8 (NLT) 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. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

## God's INCONCEIVABLE Love

**Romans 5:6-8** 

Romans 3:10-11 (NLT) As the Scriptures say, **NO ONE is righteous - not even one.** <sup>11</sup> No one is truly wise; **NO ONE is seeking God.** 

### John 6:44 (NIV) NO ONE can come to ME unless the Father who sent Me DRAWS him...

If God loved us BECAUSE we loved him, He would love us based on our love for Him, and then our salvation would depend on the reliability of our treacherous hearts. But since God loves us as SINNERS, and Christ died for us as **UNGODLY**, our salvation depends, NOT on how much we love God, but on the **FAITHFULNESS** of the LOVE of God. MacArthur

Romans 5:5 (NIV) And hope does not disappoint us, because God has POURED OUT His LOVE into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Galatians 4:4-5 (ESV) But when the FULLNESS of TIME had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to REDEEM those who were under the law, SO THAT we might receive adoption as sons. God controls ALL history, and He controlled the TIMING, the METHOD, and ALL the EVENTS surrounding the DEATH of Jesus. John 15:13 (NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. It was for SINNERS Christ died, for men who were neither "righteous" nor "good." Expositors

# When we were totally HELPLESS Christ DIED FOR us

<sup>6</sup>...it was WHILE we were POWERLESS to help ourselves that Christ DIED for SINFUL men. (JBP) 1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus CAME into the world to SAVE sinners of whom I am the worst. At the time when we were still **ENEMIES** of God, still **POWERLESS to help ourselves** - strapped to the executioner's block, guilty as charged, about to DIE - Jesus Christ stepped forward and took OUR place. HNT

### →BUT GOD...

<sup>8</sup> BUT GOD demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27 (NIV) Brothers, think of what you WERE when you were called. **Not many** of you were **wise** by human standards; **not many** were **influential**; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> BUT GOD chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

 1 Corinthians 1:28-29 (NIV)
 <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to NULLIFY the things that are, <sup>29</sup> SO THAT no one may BOAST before Him.

2 Corinthians 7:5-6 (NLT) When we arrived in Macedonia, there was **NO REST** for us. We faced **conflict** from every direction, with **battles** on the outside and fear on the inside. <sup>6</sup> **BUT GOD**, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us **BY** the arrival of Titus.

#### We are SAVED by God's LOVE - NOT by any EFFORT of our Own

<sup>8</sup> Yet the PROOF of God's amazing LOVE is this: that it was WHILE we were sinners that Christ DIED for us. (JBP) The God who hates every sinful thought and every sinful deed nevertheless LOVES the sinners who think and do those things, even while they are still hopelessly enmeshed in their sin.

MacArthur

1 John 3:16 (NLT) We KNOW what real love is because Jesus GAVE UP His life for us... Romans 3:23 (NIV) ...ALL have sinned and fall SHORT of the GLORY of God,

God is our Judge and we stand UNDER His just Condemnation because of how we have tarnished **His glory**. But the wonder of God's love is that WHILE He is the Judge, and WHILE His righteous condemnation rests on us, He is also THE Savior who has designed **THE Way of salvation from His wrath**. JP

Romans 3:23-24 (NIV) ...ALL have sinned and fall SHORT of the GLORY of God, <sup>24</sup> and are JUSTIFIED freely by His GRACE THROUGH the redemption that came BY Christ Jesus. 1 Peter 3:18 (NIV) For Christ DIED for sins ONCE for ALL, the righteous for the unrighteous, to BRING you TO God... 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT) God showed how much He loved us by sending His ONE and ONLY Son into the world so that we might have ETERNAL LIFE through Him. <sup>10</sup> This is real LOVE - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV) ...Christ Jesus CAME into the world to SAVE sinners

Even when men openly HATE God and do not have the least desire to give up their sin, they are still the objects of God's redeeming love as long as they live. Only at death does an **unbeliever** cease to be **loved** by God. After that, He is eternally beyond the reach of God's love and is **destined** irrevocably for His wrath.

MacArthur

Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT) But when the **right time** came, **God sent His** Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. <sup>5</sup> God sent Him to BUY freedom for us who were slaves to the law, SO THAT He could **ADOPT** us as His VERY OWN children.

Galatians 4:6-7 (NLT) <sup>6</sup> And because we ARE His children. God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, Abba, Father. <sup>7</sup> Now you are no longer a slave but God's OWN child. And since you are **His child**, God has made you His heir.

Romans 5:5 (NIV) And HOPE does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.