

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Denise Carter | Ukraine




PRAISE

- Praise God for the new couple, Maxim and Darina, who joined our ministry.
- Praise for the baptisms of Sasha, Galena and Anna.
- Praise for Lina's salvation and spiritual growth in the Lord.
- Praise God for your faithful prayers and financial support that make it possible to serve in Ukraine.

PRAY

- Pray for the presence of Christ to be evident in our church member's lives .
- Pray for our pastor, Oleg, to have wisdom as he leads our church body in Petrovka.
- Pray for the humanitarian aid ministry to the people in Denise's community and beyond.
- Pray for the war in Ukraine to end soon and that true peace will reign.



Handout: 12/15/24

Study Date: 12/22/24

Experience The Gift Of Love

The Bible serves as God’s special revelation to us, unveiling His attributes and showing us what love is. God manifested His love through sacrifice, by taking on human flesh in the Person of Jesus and redeeming us from the consequences of sin. John 3:16 immediately comes to mind, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Love is not a static emotion; love *acts*. Sacrificial love of the type God demonstrated toward us amazes us because we know how challenging it is to give up something valuable for the sake of another. Movies like *Titanic* achieved global success due, in part, to the theme of sacrifice. What is even more astounding about God’s demonstration of love is that He gave His life for His enemies. Even on the cross, Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those murdering Him (Luke 23:34). Christianity is unique in this regard as it is the only religion that welcomes the ungodly: “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6). In other belief systems, humanity is left to work their way up toward God, but in Christianity God came down to us.

The apostle John also reflected on God’s love in his letter: “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:9–10).

It is worth noting that God demonstrated His love in a manner that does not contradict His justice and holiness. On the cross, Jesus fulfilled the just requirements of the law and displayed God’s holiness by bearing God’s wrath against sin. Christ’s atoning work granted God the freedom to exhibit His grace and mercy side by side with His judgment, all for His glory.

The transformative effect of God’s love and grace has softened many hard hearts and filled them with gratitude. Countless depraved individuals have experienced what was described in the old hymn: “The vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives” (Crosby, F. J., “To God Be the Glory,” 1875). A prime example is the apostle Paul, who converted from an enemy of Christianity to one of its greatest evangelists.

Resource: Gotquestions.org

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KEY VERSE

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Read Romans 5:1-11 Every Day!

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Romans 5:8

Introduction

1. Romans 5:8 surely holds the greatest expression of God’s love for us! Through what act did He “*demonstrate His own love toward us*”?
2. In paragraph 5 on pg. 1 we read of the “transformative” love that God has bestowed upon us. According to paragraph 5, how powerful is His love?

Tuesday: Rom. 5:6, 8b; Eph. 2:8-9; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 3:23

Who Are We To Receive God’s Unconditional Love?

3. While our God gave up his only Son to die for us on the cross, according to Romans 5:6, 8b, how are we “defined” as the recipients of this gift?
4. What does Ephesians 2:3 reveal to us about our character without the Holy Spirit’s intervention? According to Ephesians 2:8-9, can “works” save us?

Wednesday: Romans 6:23; Romans 3:23; Ecclesiastes 12:13

What Do We Deserve Instead Of God’s Unconditional Love?

5. We learn from Romans 3:23 that we are weak and “*fall short of the glory of God.*” What will be the “*wages of our sin*” according to Romans 6:23?
6. According to Ecclesiastes 12:13 we are to “*Fear God and keep His Commandments.*” How sincere is YOUR fear of Him and His judgement?

Thursday: Romans 5:7-8; I John 4:9; II Corinthians 5:21

Believe The Good News

7. In Romans 5:7 Paul alludes to the comparison of the capacity of “human love” versus the love of God. Does even our greatest love compare to His?
8. What is the message our Creator is sending to us in the actions of I John 4:9? What does this say about his “desire for us” in eternity, in the hereafter?
9. The actions of our God in II Corinthians 5:21 are quite clear and concise. Jesus died for our sins “*that we might become the _____ of God in Him*”?

Friday: Romans 10:9; II Corinthians 6:2b

Call Upon The Lord To Be Saved

10. Romans 10:9 is a clear calling to all who read this verse to take specific action! “What” must YOU “*believe in your heart*” to be saved?
11. Now that we clearly understand what we are called to do in Romans 10:9, what does II Corinthians 6:2b add in terms of “when” to take this action?
12. We are all in need of salvation! We are all in need of a Saviour! Who in your life has not answered this call? How can WE pray for them?