

THE LOVE, THE POWER, AND THE JOY

Romans 5:6-11

By Raymond White

Suppose God loved us but had no power to save us. Or suppose that God was powerful enough to save us but didn't want to because he didn't love us. On the one hand, love without power is useless. On the other hand, power without love is dangerous. But fortunately for us, the God we trust, the God who was in the world, *in Christ reconciling the world unto himself* (**2 Corinthians 5:19**) has infinite love and omnipotent power. How do we know that God has love and power? Because he displayed both at the atonement.

***Romans 5:8** God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **:9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. **:10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Saved by his death and saved by his life. Jesus proved that he loved us by going to the cross. But anybody can die, and everybody does. Love needs more than sacrifice, love needs power, and death needs resurrection.

When Jesus rose from the dead, God's resurrection power not only breathed life back into a corpse, it breathed life into love. The gift that love promised, power delivered. The cross reveals his love, but the empty tomb reveals his power. And each needs the other.

Now, the text makes an even more important point.

***Romans 5:6** Christ died for the ungodly. **:8** While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **:10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Here's the point. If his death saved us when we were ungodly sinners, don't you think that his resurrection can keep us now that we are reconciled?

This deserves more explanation. It's easy to die, in fact we can't avoid it. It's hard to save sinners. On the flip side, it's hard to resurrect, and easy to keep reconciled those who are already reconciled. So, if Christ can save sinners (hard) by dying (easy), don't you think that he can keep the redeemed (easy) by his resurrected life (hard)?

I'll say it one more time: If a dead savior could save his enemies, don't you think a living savior could keep saved his friends?

It's kind of a matter of inertia. Changing a sinner to a saint is hard, keeping a saint a saint is easy. So is dying can do the first, don't you think that his resurrection can do the second?

I don't how many ways there are to say it. I hope you understand it by now. The point is, Jesus have you covered. He redeemed you therefore have confidence that he can keep you after all, he is (**Hebrews 12:2**) *the author and finisher of our faith*. What he began, he can complete.

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

It really comes down to trust. Not trust in yourself, your abilities, your determination, your stick-to-it-ness, but your trust in Jesus Christ that he really can, and will, hold onto you. That should bring you great joy.

Romans 5:11 *We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the atonement.*