

Romans 5:1-11

Pray that God would cause you to see the beauty of His work in this world and in your life in a deeper way.

Read Romans 5

Look Closer... Paul wants us to see the death of Jesus as the starting point to understanding God's work here in the world. Why would God come into the world in the way he did as Jesus? Paul answers the question in v. 8, because God loves the world!

The death of Jesus was a miraculous moment of love. That love, Paul says, is the same love that has been "poured into our hearts" by the Holy Spirit (v. 5). Love is now being used by Paul as a summary word for salvation. Everything that God has done in this world, every little part of the gospel, and the work that God is doing in our very hearts, is all one big work of love. God's love is unconditional and overwhelming. Unconditional meaning that His love will never let go; overwhelming meaning that it is changing the entire world. When you look up and wonder what God is up to, Paul says, the answer to that question is love.

But why? Why did God have to love the world through giving up his life? Paul answers this by using Adam as an example, or type, of Jesus. Through Adam, the first human, death came into the world through sin. Therefore, Jesus came to put sin to death, so that we could be delivered into peace with God.

Jesus is not only a second Adam, but the last Adam. Through His death and resurrection, life reigns rather than death.

Think about it... Paul summarizes his argument in 5:21, "so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus is the second Adam, because he is the firstborn of New Creation. That means, that when you, by faith, cling to Jesus (the one who makes you new and puts your sin to death), you become a part of God's work of finalizing the project of re-creating the world through Jesus!

Pray about it... God's creation is important, and all people are so valuable. God loved you with an immense amount of love, a love that never lets go and changes us. So love the people around you. Lean into God's love for you today through prayer, meditate on Romans 5:8, and ask God to give you greater love for Him, and for all those around you.