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Reading : Romans chapter 5 verses 1-11

Give attendance to the reading of scripture.

The passage read contains 207 words but there are 4 words in particular that we should be concerned with. They appear in verse 8 and are: CHRIST DIED FOR US.

The first word and last word of the four are the heart and essence of Christianity. It is possible to be loyal to church attendance and not know the Saviour.

Christianity and a healthy Christian life requires a healthy relationship with Christ.

Who is Christ?

Christ is known as Lord - The Lord Jesus Christ

A title involving ownership and authority.

He created the world and us.

He is the Son of God.

He has an eternal relationship with God.

The reason He is so important is because He is not only Lord but the Son of God.

CHRIST DIED

The creator, the anointed of God, marked out as the coming King and unique Son of God - DIED. This is a historical fact. Somewhere in the Roman archives it will be written that Jesus of Nazareth died on a cross.

We cannot help dying. Death is passed upon all men for the Bible says "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

The fact that we are sinners means that we will die. We will leave this world through physical death.

Christ never sinned in thought, speech or action. He was sinless yet He died.

We die because we are sinners. WHY would Christ die when He is sinless?

The reason for his death is indicated in the four words: CHRIST DIED FOR US.

The dictionary gives 14 meanings of the word "for" some of them are:

- with view to
- because of
- on account of
- in interests of
- on behalf of

In the context here it means on behalf of.

Who are the US?

We are sinners and have all missed the mark. God created us for his glory and his pleasure. We have not fulfilled the purpose for which we were made. We are ungodly and out of harmony with God. We are enemies and actively opposed to Gods will.

To be changed from enemy to friend is wonderful.

Christ died voluntarily "I lay it down and can take it again"(John 10:18)

He gave his life on the cross on behalf of others.

The love of God does not need to have good people to love. "God commended his love toward us in yet While we were yet sinners Christ died for us"(Rom 5:8)

The love of God is unique. He loves the unlovely. He loves those who hate him, blaspheme him and are undeserving.

What happens when you put your faith in Christ?

The opening verses teach us that you receive:

PEACE - with God

GRACE - by faith standing in God favour

GLORY - Hope of sharing in Gods glory