

Tract Number Twelve
“When God Reached Out”

NOTES FROM THE TEXTBOOK



Clifton H Carpenter

Romans 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

The book of Romans is one of the key doctrinal letters of the New Testament. The apostle Paul deals with many topics as it relates to salvation: condemnation, faith, justification and baptism are just some of the topics covered in this epistle. Paul's concern is to help the believer understand the extent of God's love in redeeming fallen man.

In Romans chapter 5 three things are mentioned to help us understand why we should thank God for His so Great Salvation: “we were yet without strength” (verse 6) “we were yet sinners” (verse 8) and “we were enemies” (verse 10)

Man by Nature is Religious. People are born with an innate desire to worship, they either will worship God as “the creator” or they will worship something or someone else “the created” (Romans 1:18-32) The religions of the world characterized by their rites and rituals seem to substantiate this claim.

However, being religious does not qualify a person for heaven, or make them right with God. The words “without strength” also rendered “weak” denote the inability of a person to accomplish his/her salvation on their own and the powerlessness of religious ordinances to produce spiritual results. (Galatians 4:8-10). Therefore “while we were yet without strength” Christ died for us.

Man by Nature is a Sinner. The word sin derives from the Greek word “hamartano” (to miss the mark). The origin of sin can be traced back to Adam when he transgressed (to overstep a boundary) the law of God.

That inward root of sin has defiled every person, and death is the constant reminder of its judgment. Being a sinner does not mean that every person is equally bad; that every individual has to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, steal money or kill someone to justify their sinfulness.

Being a sinner, however, means that the individual lives in a fallen condition totally unable to please God. Therefore, “while we yet sinners” Christ died for us.

Man by Nature is at Enmity. The word enmity (hatred and hostility) is in the active sense. Enmity is that which can cause a nation to be at war with another nation; a race of people to be at odds with another race; people to oppose government; labor to be at odds with management, etc.

Moreover, it is that which causes the human race to be against God. This universal enmity can be traced back to Satan is the prince of this world (John 12:31) and the prince of the powers of the air (Ephesians 2:2). As Satan rules over culture, music, arts, philosophy, science, politics, religion and pleasures, his purpose is to distort the program of God. Satan’s strategy through deceptive use of this world system blinds the mind of people from the truth of God.

Dear friend, does religion, sin and enmity describe your life? If so, why not respond to God’s love by trusting Jesus Christ to save you today. (John 3:16)