

May 2, 2010  
Dr. Randall O'Brien

## Monday

Rom. 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Too often we forget how truly ungodly we were! And in forgetting, we are prone to take for granted the grace of God that was revealed in the sacrifice of Jesus. There is no way around it, we were ungodly, lost, without hope, and covered with the filth of our own sin. Only by God's grace did we find forgiveness and favor. We are no better than others, no matter their crime. We must not think that we are; for when we do, we forget the wonder of His grace.

## Tuesday

Rom. 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Oh, how much God does love you! You can rest in His never ending love for the very reason that there was no beauty or goodness in you that brought it about—You were a sinner, from the beginning unworthy of His love. Yet God's love for you is based solely upon His desire to love you, upon His character and nature. Because He loved you even when you were at your worst, He will love you always. Life's circumstances may change, you may disappoint, even fail Him. Still you can rest on the unchangeable fact that God loves you.

## Wednesday

1John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also **ought** to love one another.

"Ought" is a word of obligation. Because God loved you and you have accepted that love, you also accept the divine obligation to follow Him in every area of your life. Loving and forgiving others is one of those areas of "ought." It is not easy. It is necessary. Decide now that you will forgive others. Release others from the debt they owe you, just as God released you from your debt of sin. It is a divine "ought."

## Thursday

Heb. 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.

Bitterness is a deadly enemy. It will kill you. Modern medicine reports the damaging effects of bitterness upon physical health. Such is no surprise to God. Bitterness is deadly to spiritual health, too. Bitterness steals joy, robs peace, and murders usefulness in the Kingdom. Let this be your prayer: "Lord, deliver me from bitterness and sinful anger. Let me dwell in your grace. By my walk and example deliver others from the prison of bitterness." Amen

## Friday

Prov. 26:20-21 For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife.

Some people are easily embittered and through their bitterness cause great disruption to God's church and mission. It should not be so in the family of God. Today pray: "Lord, deliver me from being easily embittered. Make me slow to take offense and slow to offend. Make me over as a new creation filled with your Spirit and filled with your grace. Let my mouth speak encouragement and let my disposition be one of peace. Then I will be pleasing to you and an instrument of your peace in a hurting world." Amen