



*EST FONDS VITAE*

## **DATE**

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December 9, 2018

## **SERIES**

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ADVENT

## **TITLE & PASSAGE**

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*God's Abundant Love*

Psalm 5:1-7

## **OCCASION**

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A message presented by Pastor Marc Minter on the Lord's Day to the congregation of First Baptist Church of Diana, TX.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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Talk with most anyone in America who claims to be a Christian, and you will probably hear much on the subject of God's love. Christians disagree about all kinds of things, but most seem to agree that God loves everyone unconditionally. However, the Scripture speaks of God's love in particular terms, expansive terms, and profound terms. In this message, we shall consider the love of God lavished upon all those who are in Christ. We shall also consider the contrasting posture of God toward all unbelieving sinners.

## **MAIN POINT**

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God's abundant and steadfast love is discriminatory; therefore, let us live with humble expectancy... let us live in the fear of God.

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO [PASTOR@FBCDIANA.ORG](mailto:PASTOR@FBCDIANA.ORG)

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

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### **Psalm 5:1–7 (ESV)**

1 Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.

2 Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.

3 O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.

5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

6 You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

7 But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.

## **MAIN POINT**

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God's abundant and steadfast love is discriminatory; therefore, let us live with humble expectancy... let us live in the fear of God.

## **MESSAGE OUTLINE**

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**(1) THE LOVE OF GOD**

**(2) THE HATE OF GOD**

**(3) THE ACTIVITY OF A BELOVED SINNER**

**(4) SOME APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

## MESSAGE

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### (1) THE LOVE OF GOD

- God's love is abundant
  - "But I, **through the abundance of your steadfast love**, will enter your house" (v7)
    - The psalmist speaks of himself in contrast to the kind of person he describes in v4-6.
      - "4 you are not a God who delights in wickedness; **evil may not dwell with you**. 5 The **boastful shall not stand before your eyes**; you hate all **evildoers**. 6 You destroy **those who speak lies**; the LORD abhors the **bloodthirsty** and **deceitful man**"
        - "**But I... will enter your house!**" (v7)
          - How can this be?
            - It is because of the "abundance of [God's]... love" (ESV).
            - It is because of the "multitude of [God's] mercy" (KJV).
            - It is because of God's "great faithfulness" (NET).
            - It is because of God's "abundant lovingkindness" (NASB).
  - The phrase speaks of the abundance and the steadfastness of God's love/mercy/kindness, but here we are focusing upon the abundance.
    - God's love is abundant!
      - God's love is plentiful, rich, lavish, extravagant!
        - The Scripture tells us that "**God is love**" (1 Jn. 4:8), which means God defines love... He is the full measure of love... all other expressions of love – even the best of them – are only a dim reflection of God's love.
        - And what does the Scripture place as the centerpiece of God's love?
          - It is the cross of Christ!

- **“In this the love of God was made manifest** among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **In this is love**, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:9–10).
  - The abundance of God’s love is demonstrated by the fact that wicked/evil people may still enter into the house of God, but this is no mere slight of hand or superficial forgiveness!
  - God has poured out divine justice, furious wrath, upon His Son, who was the propitiation for our sins!
    - Oh, the love of God is abundant, indeed!
  
- God’s love is steadfast
  - **“But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house”** (v7)
    - Not only is God’s love abundant, it is also steadfast!
      - Remember, God’s love/mercy/kindness is faithful (various translations)!
    - God’s love never fails... and I can think of no greater passage for this truth than the conclusion of Paul’s argument in chapter 8 of his letter to the Romans.
      - **“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (Romans 8:35–39)

- God welcomes those He loves
  - God will “give ear to [your] words” (v1).
  - God will “consider [your] groaning” (v1).
  - God will “give attention to the sound of [your] cry” (v2).
  - God will “hear [your] voice” (v3).
  - God will welcome your entrance into His “house” (v7).
    - God unreservedly and consistently loves and welcomes those He has redeemed through the propitiating work of Christ!
      - Gerstner: “God never hates the redeemed even when they sin. Is He an unfair respecter of persons? No! (Act. 10:34) ...God loves the redeemed even when they sin because His Son, in whom God is always well-pleased, ever lives to make intercession for them. (Rom.8:27, 34) Christ died to atone for the guilt of His people’s sins. When they sin, these are atoned-for sins. They are sins with their guilt removed. In one sense, they are not sins at all. God does not hate His people when they sin because they are in His Son, Christ Jesus. And they are made acceptable in His Son. He ‘has made us accepted in the Beloved’ (Eph. 1:6).”
  - AND we must never imagine that God switches His posture from hate to love for the redeemed because of some amendment or movement on their part.
    - NO! God loves sinners because He wants to... before they do anything good at all!
      - “God shows his love for us in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
      - God “**chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he **predestined us for adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**, to the praise of his glorious grace...” (Ephesians 1:4–6)
      - “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even **when we were dead in our trespasses**, made us alive together with Christ—by **grace** you have been saved...” (Ephesians 2:4–5)
      - “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that **we should be called** children of God; and so we are...” (1 John 3:1)

- “We love because **he first loved us**” (1 John 4:19)
- And this kind of initiating love of God is the very basis upon which Christian love is built!
  - If God loves you sacrificially and abundantly and steadfastly, then what reason do you have for withholding such love from your fellow church members?
    - Do you know that God loves you, despite your repeated offenses against Him?
    - Do you know that God loves your brother and sister in Christ, despite their repeated offenses against Him?
    - Do you love your brother and sister in Christ, despite their occasional offense against you?

Summary: The love of God is steadfast and abundant; and He always welcomes those He loves.

Segue: But God does discriminate... He does not love everyone the same... as a matter of fact, God even hates some people.

## (2) THE HATE OF GOD

- God does actually hate sinners
  - “4 you are not a God who delights in wickedness; **evil may not dwell with you. 5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. 6 You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man**” (v4-6)
    - “evil may not dwell with you. 5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes” (v4-5)
      - To “dwell with” God (v4) and “stand before” God’s “eyes” (v5) is to live under His blessings... His benevolent presence or gaze.
        - The only other alternative is to be under God’s curse... thrust from His benevolent presence and having His face turned away.

- “You destroy those who speak lies” (v6)
  - This speaks of active destruction; just consider this imagery:
    - The Scripture says to the liar and the boastful, “God will break you down forever... he will uproot you from the land of the living” (Ps. 52:5)
- “the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man” (v6)
  - God “abhors” (detests, abominates, loathes) “bloodthirsty” (murderous, cruel) and “deceitful” (fraudulent, lying) men.
- “you hate all evildoers” (v5)
  - God hates (disdains, scorns) all who “do” or “work” “evil” or “iniquity” or “sin” (various translations).
    - God “hates the wicked” (Ps. 11:5).
    - “the devious [or deceptively wicked] person is an abomination to the LORD” (Prov. 3:32).
    - “those of crooked heart are an abomination to the LORD” (Prov. 11:20).
    - “Everyone who is arrogant in his heart is an abomination to the LORD” (Prov. 16:5).
    - God said of the people of Israel, because of their “evil... I [God] began to hate them. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more...” (Hosea 9:15)
    - The wicked man is sinful in his heart; “there is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated...” (Ps. 36:1-2).
- God hates sinners who presume themselves to be saints (or Christians)
  - Speaking to the gathering of people who are claiming to assemble as God’s people in the world, God said, “When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me... I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands [to pray], I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen...” (Isaiah 1:12–17).

- To those who looked forward to “the Day of the Lord” (the final judgment of God), presuming that they themselves had nothing to fear, God said, “Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! ...It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him... ‘I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.... Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen...” (Amos 5:18–24)
- God rejects those He hates
  - “evil may not dwell with you” (v4)
    - Edwards: “**God** has laid himself under no obligation, by any promise, to keep any natural man out of hell one moment. **God certainly has** made no promises either of eternal life, or of any deliverance or preservation from eternal death, but what are contained in... the promises that are given in Christ... **But surely** they have no interest in the promise of the covenant of grace who are not the children of the covenant, who do not believe in any of the promises, and have no interest in the Mediator of the covenant. **So that**, whatever some have imagined and pretended about promises made to natural men's earnest seeking and knocking, it is plain and manifest, that whatever pains a natural man takes in religion, whatever prayers he makes, till he believes in Christ, **God is under** no manner of obligation to keep him a moment from eternal destruction. **[And] thus** it is that natural men held in the hand of God over the pit of hell; they have deserved the fiery pit, and are already sentenced to it; **and God is** dreadfully provoked: **His anger** is as great towards them as those that are actually suffering the execution of the fierceness of His wrath in hell; **and they have done nothing** in the least to appease or abate that anger, neither is God in the least bound by any promise to hold them up for one moment. **The devil** is waiting for them, hell is gaping for them, the flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them, and swallow them up... **and they have no means** within reach that can be any security to them. **In short** they have no refuge, nothing to take hold of; **all that preserves them** every moment is the mere arbitrary will, and uncovenanted, unobligated forbearance of an incensed God.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from Edward's message “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” See full transcript here: [https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pdf/edwards\\_angry.pdf](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pdf/edwards_angry.pdf)

- Friends, do you know that God hates?
  - Do you know that God abhors sinners?
    - What is this subject doing to you this morning?
      - Is your arrogant heart offended that God would express Himself in this way?
      - Is your aching heart broken to think of your friends and family who appear right now to be under God's furious hatred?
      - Is your soul gripped by the number of people you see every day who presume upon God's grace?
      - Are you humbled by the thought that God would love a sinner like you instead of hating you as He should?
      - Do you rejoice that God's hatred for you has been poured out completely upon Christ?
      - Will you live from this day onward as though there is no such hatred... no such hell... no such day of reckoning?
      - Or will you strive to keep the fear of God before your eyes?

Summary: God loves beyond measure; God hates with severity; and God discriminates based on the person and work of His Son.

Segue: What do we learn from this Psalm about the activity of a beloved sinner?

### **(3) THE ACTIVITY OF A BELOVED SINNER**

- The whole Psalm is a prayer
  - The psalmist is praying:
    - To the "LORD" who is both "King" and "God" (v1-2)
    - To the God who "hears" and acts (v3)
    - To the God who judges perfectly (v4-6)
    - To the God who "loves" "abundantly" and "steadfastly" (v7)
    - To the God who is worthy of "fear" (v7)

- The prayer is humble and worshipful
  - The psalmist does not presume
    - He expects to “enter” God’s “house” based on “the abundance of [God’s] steadfast love” and not on the basis of anything in him (v7).
  - The psalmist is worshipful
    - He “bows down” in the “fear” of God (v7).
  
- The prayer is eager and expectant
  - The psalmist pleads with God
    - He speaks words of “groaning” (v1) and “crying” (v2), and early in the “morning” he has already “prepared a sacrifice [or prayer]” (v3).
      - The idea is earnest supplication for gracious help.
  - The psalmist expects God’s judgment and God’s grace
    - He prays in light of the fact that God will judge the wicked, and even now God’s fury is aimed at them (v4-6); and he prays with the perspective that God will be gracious to those who worship and fear Him (v7).

God’s abundant and steadfast love is discriminatory; therefore, let us live with humble expectancy... let us live in the fear of God.

#### **(4) SOME APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

##### **1. Are you loved by God or hated by Him today?**

- a. How do you know?
  - i. Is your life marked by wickedness, evil, arrogance, lying, or hostility?
  - ii. Is your life marked by love and fear for God or love for self... for stuff... for leisure... for status... for stability... for success?
- b. Do you acknowledge your sin and run toward God anyway?
  - i. Have you put down any pretense... trying to keep some respectability among those who know you?
  - ii. Are you trusting in the finished work of Christ alone?

## 2. Do you live with humble expectancy?

- a. Do you think and speak and act as though God will ultimately deal with wickedness?
- b. Do you think and speak and act as though God will ultimately welcome all those He loves?
- c. Do you think and speak and act as though these things are true right now?

## 3. Do you fear God?

- a. Does the character and nature of God create a sense of awe in you?
- b. Do you imagine that God is under your control, safely caged within certain boundaries for your comfort?
- c. Or is your heart eerily excited by the notion that God is truly God?

God's abundant and steadfast love is discriminatory; therefore, let us live with humble expectancy... let us live in the fear of God.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR THIS PASSAGE/TOPIC

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*Does God Hate Anyone?* by Matt Slick

<https://carm.org/does-god-hate-anyone>

*Does God Love the Sinner and Hate Only His Sin?* by John Gerstner

[http://www.the-highway.com/lovesinner\\_Gerstner.html](http://www.the-highway.com/lovesinner_Gerstner.html)

*Characteristics of a Righteous Man* by "Walk in the Word"

[http://www.walkwiththeword.org/Studies/01\\_OT/19\\_Psalms/19\\_Psalms\\_001\\_&\\_005.html](http://www.walkwiththeword.org/Studies/01_OT/19_Psalms/19_Psalms_001_&_005.html)

*God's Simultaneous Love and Hate* by Augustine

<https://www.monergism.com/god's-simultaneous-love-and-hate>