

---

---

# The Story of Jesus

---

---

Published By Evangelist Van Billingsley

Summer 2006

---

---

## He Careth for You!

---

“Casting all your care upon him;  
for he careth for you.”

-- 1 Peter 5:7

---

Every time I read this verse the same thing comes to my mind. We know how outspoken Peter was, he always had something to say whether he was right or wrong. Many times he put his foot in his mouth as when he said, “Let us make three tabernacles,” at the mount of transfiguration or “I’ll never deny thee,” at the last supper. Other times he spoke mighty words such as the reasons he gave to Jesus in John chapter six as to why they could not turn away from Jesus, or his words, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,” in answer to who Jesus is. Knowing with

his outspoken nature, it was usually Peter who spoke up if anyone did, I can’t help but to think it must have been he who stood on the ship in the midst of the storm and cried out to Jesus, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Whether those words came from his lips or another in his company on the ship, I am sure they echoed in his mind years later as he wrote this comforting promise with all surety. You see, Peter had spent much time since getting to know Him. There’s no doubt whatsoever left in his mind to that question at the beginning of their relationship with Christ. The more we get to know Him, the more He increases our faith in Him. In this edition’s sermon we’ll see more about getting to know Him. --VB

---

## Getting to Know Him

**(Romans 5:6-11)**

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled,

*we shall be saved by his life.*

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

You may not fully understand our chosen title as fitting our text until we

-- continued on page 3

### Inside This Edition...

~ **Opening Commentary**, cover

*He Careth for You!*

~ **Featured Sermon**, cover & p.3 & 4

*Getting to Know Him*

~ **From the Editor’s Desk**, p.2

## From the Desk of the Editor

---



God has done much in our ministry since we last gave report on His blessings. Things are going great in our new location for the mission and ministry headquarters. God has provided many needed things and helped me understand the delay in some things I once thought were lacking. God may not be ready for me to do certain things at this location at this time, but He has given us a suitable place to grow and take our mission work to the next level. This location gives us a nice chapel for our services, a Sunday School and refreshment area, and an office area for my office to serve the mission and my evangelism ministry. This location is serving our present needs, but whether short or long term, I know it is temporary. There is room for present growth here, but certainly not for long term growth. We are also very limited with parking, which is virtually nonexistent. The only thing I know is that God has provided this place for us at this time and it is meeting our present needs. We are trusting God to lead us in every step and He has always supplied every need when we actually need it.

Another praise we have to report is a need we have had for some time with transportation. We have had several problems with breakdowns over the past year which has created hardships on us and our sponsoring church which has always tried to provide our needs in this area. We thank God that He has provided us with a good solid '87 International diesel 65 passenger bus. Several friends have helped us acquire this bus for the mission.

We had a great time with the children from the mission at summer camp. We had several saved and many lives

changed as is always the case at Living Waters Youth Camp. Our bus gave us a comfortable and safe trip there and back. We are also grateful to our home church, Oakside Baptist Church and a sister church and close friends, Living Waters Baptist Church in LaGrange, for donations which paid the way for our children to go to camp.

Since I have gone full time in the ministry at the beginning of this year, God has provided our needs thus far, but we are in need of regular support, and I have not been able to do much deputation for this. As a missionary evangelist, we need support for our mission as well as my living and operating expense in evangelism. Please pray for us in this area!

I also covet your prayers over several endeavors we are working on such as a book I hope to publish soon, Bible School materials I plan to make available in packets, other various printed materials and several CD sets we are making available. We have released several CD's in my "Life of Moses" series and when Volume one is complete I plan to package them together.

In the midst of traveling over the next several weeks, we have our VBS/Children's Crusade at the mission the second week in July. We will also be working in other VBS programs and youth camps in upcoming weeks. We need your prayers in all these areas. We have been very busy doing God's work but I need to schedule meetings from the end of summer and forward. Please pray that God will give an open door of utterance that I may proclaim *The Story of Jesus*.

A Servant of Christ,  
Evangelist Van Billingsley

---

## Getting to Know Him

(continued from cover) --

have examined some of the words used. Verse eight of our text says, "God commendeth His love toward us..." Commend means to commit, entrust or give for care or preservation, to recommend or present as worthy. In our text, it comes from a word which means to place together, or to introduce one to another. I've seen paraphrases (probably coming from modern translations which I care not to research) saying, "God demonstrated His love to us..." This completely loses the original meaning which is so beautifully preserved in our King James Bible. God did much more than merely demonstrate, or show us His love so we could see it. He has placed us and His love together; He has introduced His love to us and us to His love. The act of His love was much more than a demonstration to see; His love was applied to us and we were placed in His love. He commended His love toward us. Being introduced to someone is the first step toward getting to know them. This passage is all about getting to know Him and getting to know His love for us. It tells us what He has done to form this new relationship with Him.

Our lost condition is described in verse six as without strength and as the ungodly. What a sad and hopeless description this is, to be ungodly or without God. This condition shows us as alienated from God. To take the word "Godly," which means, "to be of God, Like God, having to do with God, etc." then using the simplest way of negating this meaning to say it is just not so, describes one who is hopelessly separated from God. Verse ten even says we were the enemies of God in this state. Thinking of all this means for a lost sinner to be "Ungodly," I certainly

wish to do all I can as a redeemed believer to not be ungodly and separate from all that is ungodly. This, however, is not our message at this moment. We are looking at what God did for us and getting to know Him. Verse six says while we were ungodly, He died for us, and verse eight says while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Why would one do such a thing. Who would do such a thing. Verse seven marvels at this and verse eight gives the answer: He did so to commend His love toward us; He did it because He loves us. While getting to know Him, we learn **as His enemy, He is love!** John wrote, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (1 John 4:8). He later wrote, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16). John sums up what we see in our text as he speaks of knowing God and dwelling in God and He in us. God made this so when He commended His love toward us. God never asked or commanded us to do anything that Jesus as a man was not willing to do Himself. Jesus commanded us to love our enemies and here we see Jesus loved us while we were truly His enemies.

This is not all, because verse nine says, "Much more then..." letting us know it gets even better. If He loved us enough to die for us when we were His enemies, what should we expect from Him as His friends. Yes, now we are His friends because we have been reconciled to Him. Though once alienated from God as the ungodly, we are now reconciled or reunited to God with a relationship with Him as man had before the fall of Adam, which is discussed in the verses following our text. With this new relationship or friendship,

-- continued on back page

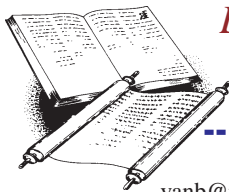
we should expect much more than He did while we were His enemies. Paul said, "Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." We were justified by His blood in His death, but Paul said, "We shall be saved by his life." Our sin debt was settled in His death, but what is to come, what He shall do for us as His friend will come through His life. It was through His victory over death and His resurrected life that He gives us new life. Here we learn that **as His Friend, He is Life!** Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). I wish I had time and space to expound on this unending theme, but I must move on.

You'd think this were enough, but verse eleven says, "And not only so..." revealing to us even more good news to getting to know Him and His love. We are told, "We also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." We have joy in God which is given to us through our Lord. It is through our Lord that we have received the atonement. Again, we often see the Word of God attacked as many criticize our King James Bible claiming the word "Atonement" is incorrectly translated here. Being as kind and eloquent as I can, I must

say that is a stupid assessment. There is no better word possible for this text. We all understand that atonement in the Old Testament is a different process than the atonement given by Christ, but it fulfills the same end, which is atonement, only more so being complete, perfect, final and everlasting. The word "Atone" is literally formed from the two words "At one." This is not just a catchy definition, it is the true etymology of the word meaning to be made "At one" or to be united together. Whether through the putting off of a sin debt in the Old Testament, or and eradication of the sin debt through the blood of Jesus Christ, reconciliation still means to receive atonement or to be united with God and our Lord Jesus Christ. This is being placed together with Him in a partnership. Though we are joint heirs with Him in this partnership, we still realize this is a partnership in which we are His servant and He is our Lord as our text calls Him. Here we learn **as being reconciled to Him, He is Lord!** Getting to know Him as Lord is a true joy. We have a Master who really does care about us.

The more I get to know Him, the more I know... 1. As His enemy, He is Love; 2. As His Friend, He is Life; 3. Being reconciled to Him, He is Lord.

--VB



---

*Evangelist Van Billingsley*  
*proclaiming*

**The Story of Jesus**  
**-- A Missionary to our Homeland --**  
**(334)644-2391 ~ (334)644-4913**

vanb@mindspring.com ~ <http://www.sojministries.com>

1906 South First Avenue, Lanett, Alabama 36863

*Working out of*

*Oakside Baptist Church - LaGrange, Georgia*

---

Independent  
Fundamental  
KJV