

## **Eleutheros Newsletter**

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[www.eleutherosbooks.com](http://www.eleutherosbooks.com)

### *News of Interest*

In recent days Eleutheros Books has made contact with an official in the government of Burundi. Jean Bosco is the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court in that country. He is quite interested in translating *The Ramifications of Our Salvation* into Kirundi, a language spoken and read in several surrounding countries. The main goal of the project is to train pastors. Here is what he wrote a few days ago:

Yes Dear John, books are very interesting. We are incorporating its in our curriculum. Only problem they are in English. We have to put its in Kirundi and in French. Thank you Jean Bosco The heart of Eleutheros Books is to help bring a revival of evangelism and Biblical thinking to people all over the world. If you share this burden/vision, please consider joining this outreach ministry!

Feel free to check out the Eleutheros Books Global Fund:  
<https://www.purecharity.com/eleutheros-books-global-fund>

Christian books to very needy people: Africa, India, Russia, the Middle East, and Spanish speaking countries!

All donations are tax deductible.

### ***The Role of the Father in Our Salvation***

#### Part 3

*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ([Romans 5:8](#))!*

In the past two newsletters we have considered different aspects of the Father's role in our salvation.

First, we looked at His *sovereignty*. Because God really is God (and therefore is the Creator of all things), He has the authority to tell mankind what to do, what to be, and what to believe. This means that we must pay careful attention to His will, His Word, and His ways; and we surely do not do well to "invent" some *manmade* ideas about heaven or eternal life!

Next, we looked at His knowledge *and foreknowledge*. Simply put, God knows each of us intimately. Not only that, He knows exactly what we need and how to provide for us.

In this newsletter we will consider the great *love of God*.

- 1. God is love.** In a world that is so full of hostility, this is difficult to fully comprehend. Terrorists seem to hate even people of their own ethnicity; greedy people do not care what they do to others; slander and "fake news" are the apparent norm for the media.

This has been a problem for man from the very beginning. Cain killed his brother Abel ([Genesis 4:8](#)), not willing to accept the gracious offer of God about an acceptable sacrifice ([Genesis 4:6-7](#)).

During the Graeco-Roman times (323 B.C. to A.D. 476) the idea of God's love was badly misunderstood also. The Spartans often threw male babies on a mountain to see if they would be "tough enough" to survive a few days on its own. If so, a child would probably grow up to be a good warrior; if not, in their opinion, it would not be a great loss to their society.

The Greek noun *agape* is quite interesting. The Greek language has an amazing history, from pre-Homeric times to the present day. Poets, philosophers, mathematicians, play writers, medical personnel, architects, and others have written works that are still considered valuable today. It seems that the Greeks had a word or phrase for virtually everything!

However, that was not the case concerning God's love! The word *agape* had very little meaning until the Judaeo-Christian community made attempts to explain it. The classical uses of the word generally meant "to treat well," "to like," or something similar. With all its history and "religious sentiment" the Greeks simply had no word or phrase that even came close to describing God's love.

The translators of the Hebrew Old Testament (approximately 250 B.C.) took this word *agape* and gave it a totally new meaning! The same word is used in the New Testament quite often.

*Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love ([1 John 4:7-8](#)).* The world certainly has a perverted idea about love, but we can see two important things about God's love in these verses.

First, true love comes from God (*love is of God*). Man cannot generate this on his own, based on feeling or decision; it comes entirely from Him!

Second, God's **nature** is love. He not only sets the standard; He *is* the standard!

**2. God loves us in spite of our sin!** This surely is one of the most amazing facts in all of Scripture. How could a holy God Who hates sin love those who are so deep into sin!?

*But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 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 ([Romans 5:8-10](#)).*

These verses indicate that God's love, His amazing *agape* love, found a way to save, justify, and free from wrath all those who believe in His Son's work on the cross!

We surely do well to give Jesus glory, but we should never forget that it was the Father Who sent Him and offers the eternal life we so desperately need!

**3. God's grace is ultimately the means of our salvation!** His love is multi-faceted. Simply stated, *mercy* is God's love extended to those who are in need; *pity* is God's love

extended to those who are hurting; but *grace* is God's love extended to those who do not deserve it!

In our natural state we were ungodly ([Romans 5:6](#)), His enemies ([Romans 5:10](#)), dead ([Ephesians 2:1](#)), walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air ([Ephesians 2:2](#); see also [John 8:44](#)), children of wrath ([Ephesians 2:3](#)), and having no hope, and without God in this world ([Ephesians 2:12](#)).

What a hopeless situation! But then God showed us His grace that we might be saved when we believe: *For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast* ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#))!

Some have the mistaken idea that our sin is so horrible and plentiful that even God cannot save us. Notice what He tells us about this:

*Moreover the Law entered, that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace did MUCH MORE abound.** That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord* ([Romans 5:20-21](#)).

Summarizing these two verses, one could well say this: when sin runs into God's amazing grace, that grace, rooted in His *agape* love, does not have a chance! Grace triumphs every time and overwhelms sin!

As *powerful* as these verses are, we do well to remember that God's love and grace are accompanied by His *sovereignty* and *foreknowledge*.

What a salvation! And praise be to the Father!

We also do well to ponder the fact that *nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord* ([Romans 8:35-39](#))!

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

*Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss  
Grace that is greater, ye grace untold,  
Points to the Refuge, the mighty cross!*

*Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!*

*Grace Greater Than Our Sin  
Julia H. Johnston*