

But God

But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. –Romans 5:8

The word “*but*”, though often overlooked, indicates a contrast and in this verse, it is an essential contrast. It is the contrast between God’s great demonstration of love and our depraved condition as sinners. It shows man’s hopeless plight and God’s glorious provision.

The next verse explains that Christ’s shed blood provides the way for us to be justified. According to Webster’s dictionary, “*justified*” means to show a lawful reason for an act. It means to judge and treat as righteous. The contrast continues with the righteousness of Christ and the unrighteousness of man. Man could not give a lawful reason for his sin, but Christ’s righteousness through His shed blood could absolve us of the guilty verdict. As guilty sinners we can now be treated as righteous.

We agree with Paul (v. 7), “*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*” But God loved us so much that Christ, the sinless one, died for us, the sinner. How amazing is His love!