

Ruined Sinners

But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.—Romans 5:8

Have you ever heard someone say, “Don’t just tell me you love me, show me”? For the recipient to feel loved, love has to be demonstrated. Christ demonstrated His love for us. While we were His enemies, He gave His life for us. He suffered the agony of the cross.

Hymn writers have used the terms like “wretched” and “ruined” to describe man’s sinful condition. Synonyms for wretched include worthless, base, despicable, inadequate, inferior, shameful and vile. Ruined indicates abandoned, derelict, and deteriorating. Our state without Christ’s love is hopeless. We are worthless, repulsive, and deteriorating.

I passed a spot downtown where filth abounded and was reminded of Isaiah 64:6, *“But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.”* Nothing we could do would change our condition. We were helpless to eradicate our sins.

Because of God’s love for us, our sins are washed away. If we accept what He has done in our place, we are clean and clothed in His righteousness. In Zechariah 3:4 we read that the filthy garments are removed, *“See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”*

Christ demonstrated His love for us. He died on the cross, shedding His blood, that we might stand spotless before the throne of God. That we might be clothed in His righteousness.

*Ruined sinners to reclaim,
Halleluiah what a Savior!*