

## **Our Incredible Savior**

### **Rom 5:6-8**

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NKJV

What are you willing to die for? The other day we all heard the story of Wesley Autrey, a 50 year old construction worker in New York who had encountered a man that was having serious medical problems. The man lay on the floor convulsing, Mr. Autrey borrowed a pen from a passer-by and used it to help the man. He also went to a transit worker and told him to call for help. Shortly the sick man was doing better and was walking around. Then all of a sudden he had another convulsion and fell on the train tracks below. Although Wesley Autrey had two young daughters with him, he jumped down to the tracks to help the man get out. He was having difficulty getting the man back on the platform when he saw the approaching train coming. He could have jumped back and saved himself but instead he bear hugged the other man and threw him into a depression on between tracks. Two cars of the train passed over them before the train could stop. And he was there under the train for 20 minutes before they could free him. What would you do for a stranger that you did not know?

Ross A. McGinnis was riding in the gunners hatch when an insurgent threw a grenade past him into the vehicle. McGinnis told the four soldiers in the vehicle. Training tells them to get out. But that is not what McGinnis did. He could not retrieve the grenade so he pinned the grenade by sitting down and pushing his back against it. He died instantly but he saved the lives of the other four men. Would you give up your life for you friends?

The problem we encounter in this passage is that Christ died for the ungodly. He died for those totally unlike himself. He is godly but we are ungodly. What is it that could bring Jesus to die for those who were in the words of Paul here sinners v-9, ungodly v-6, enemies v-10.

Now we all would probably say we would die for our family members. Some might even be willing to die for their friends. But who among us would did for their enemies so that they might live. Would that not be unbelievable, even incredible?

Paul wants to show us just how much God loves us.

I. God's love is unique

A. Three words for love in Greek

1. *Eros*

- a. Never found in the New Testament
- b. Is totally contrary to the New Testament idea of love
- c. Used for passionate love

2. *Phileo*
  - a. usually used of those who are blood relation or are bound together by faith
  - b. Is used in the sense of a brotherly love
  - c. Or a love for the brethren in the faith
3. *Agapa*
  - a. Is the highest form of love
    - (1) John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. NKJV
  - b. Loves without regard to what is received in return
  - c. Is not characteristic of mankind but only of God
  - d. This is the word used for love whenever God is the one loving others.
  - e. It is also used of the love that Christians are to have for others
  - f. The reason we can have that type of love is because the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts
  - g. Rom 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. NKJV

## II. God's love motivates Him to action

- A. It was not because of us
  1. It was not because we were good.
  2. It was not because we deserved it or had earned His love.
  3. We were in fact sinners and rebels against God and all that He is.
- B. Christ died . . . .
  1. Christ died. He did a great deal besides dying, but the crowning act of His career of love, and that which rendered all the rest available, was His death.
  2. He did not have to die, no one took His life from Him.
  3. He did not deserve die, He had done nothing wrong.
  4. He laid down His life freely.
  5. But why would He die for us?

## III. An incredible exchange

- A. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die.

1. The term righteous man here has the idea of one who keeps all the rules.
  2. He does all that is required. *Bengel*
  3. The idea is that there is this person that does all that is required but you can tell that his heart is not in it.
  4. Now he is sentenced to die, would you change places with him?
  - 5.
- B. Yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.
1. The term good man means one who goes beyond just keeping the rules.
  2. It means he does more than others can ask. *Bengel*
  3. The idea is that there is this person who not only does all that you require but they do more than is required, they even anticipate your desires and do what they can to meet them.
  4. Now this person is sentenced to die, would you change places with them.
- C. For us
1. We were neither good or righteous.
  2. We had never kept God's law let alone try to seek His pleasure.
  3. We broke His laws, rebelled against His will.
  4. We sided with His arch enemy against Him and made fun of His children.
  5. In reality we would have destroyed Him if we could.
  6. But yet when we were still condemned sinners, Christ died for us.
  7. Eph 2:1-5 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), NKJV
  8. 1 Peter 3:18-19 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, NKJV
  9. 1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. NKJV

If, then, "God spared not His Son, but freely delivered Him up for us all," there must have been a dread necessity for it.

If you have never been saved, this ought to be a danger signal for you. You are in great danger. Jesus would not interpose His life if there were not solemn need and imminent peril. The Cross is the danger signal to you, it warns you that if God spared not His only Son, He will not spare you.

Spc. Ross A. McGinnis has been nominated by his commanders for the Medal of Honor, said Maj. Sean Ryan, a spokesman for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

On Dec. 4, while on duty in Baghdad, Iraq, McGinnis used his body to smother a grenade, saving the lives of four fellow soldiers. McGinnis died from the blast. McGinnis, 19, was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, which is attached to 2nd BCT.

Only one soldier and one Marine have received the Medal of Honor since the beginning of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and there has been debate about why there have been so few recipients of the nation's highest award for valor.

According to information provided Tuesday by Multi-National Division-Baghdad, McGinnis was manning the gunner's hatch when an insurgent tossed a grenade from above. The grenade flew past McGinnis and down through the hatch before lodging near the radio. His platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Cedric Thomas, was in the vehicle at the time. McGinnis "yelled, 'Grenade. ... It's in the truck,'" Thomas said. "I looked out of the corner of my eye as I was crouching down and I saw him pin it down." McGinnis, who was from Knox, Pa, could have escaped the blast, Thomas said. "He had time to jump out of the truck," he said. "He chose not to. He gave his life to save his crew and his platoon sergeant. He's a hero."

Three of the soldiers in the vehicle with McGinnis have returned to duty after suffering minor injuries. The fourth is recovering in Germany.

McGinnis, the youngest soldier in his company, was approved Monday for a Silver Star, the nation's third highest award for valor, according to a press release from MND-B. In it, he was referred to as a private first class. McGinnis was promoted to E-4 the morning he died.

[http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/archives/2006/12/spc\\_ross\\_mcginin\\_nominated\\_for\\_medal\\_of\\_honor/](http://www.outsidethebeltway.com/archives/2006/12/spc_ross_mcginin_nominated_for_medal_of_honor/)

<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/ramcginnis.htm>

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Good Samaritan saves man on subway tracks

BY ANDREW STRICKLER

Newsday Staff Writer

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When Wesley Autrey saw a man who had suffered a seizure fall onto the subway tracks, he jumped in to save the stranger.

As he tried to pull the man to safety at the Harlem stop, Autrey looked up.

"I saw the two white lights, and said, 'Whoa, you ain't got no time,'" Autrey said.

Autrey, 50, grabbed Cameron Hollopeter, 20, in a bear hug and the pair landed in a shallow trough in the track bed, with Autrey on top.

The screeching train went right over the pair, missing them by inches.

"In my mind, I believed, I hoped, the train had enough clearance," Autrey said. "It didn't hit my head; it just nicked my cap."

Police said at least two cars passed over the two men before coming to a halt.

Autrey estimated they were under the train for 20 minutes before power to an adjacent track was cut so emergency workers could safely remove them. At St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, where Hollopeter was taken for treatment for the seizure and minor injuries, thankful family member Jeff Friedman said Hollopeter was shaken by the experience and was sedated Tuesday night.

"For someone who got run over by a train, he looks pretty damn good to me," Friedman said. "Miracles do happen, don't they?"

Friedman, 55, of New Jersey, said Hollopeter was the son of his daughter's husband and was studying to be a film

director at New York Film Academy.

"He's a talented writer, but he couldn't have written the screenplay any better," Friedman said.

Hollopeter's father was on his way to New York from Massachusetts and sent thanks to Autrey, Friedman said.

"I'd like to buy him a drink, maybe a hundred drinks," Friedman said.

The near-miss occurred Tuesday at about 12:44 p.m., as Autrey and Hollopeter waited separately for a downtown No. 1 train at the 137th Street-City College station.

Autrey, who was taking his two young daughters to meet their mother downtown before heading to his job at a Brooklyn construction site, said he saw Hollopeter fall on his back on the platform and begin to convulse.

After running to a transit worker to call for help, Autrey said he returned to Hollopeter, who was still convulsing and choking. Autrey got a pen from another rider and forced it between Hollopeter's jaws. Hollopeter soon appeared to recover, and even stood up and walked on the platform, Autrey said.

But then Hollopeter stumbled and fell onto the tracks, and Autrey jumped after him.

A Navy veteran who grew up in Brewton, Ala., Autrey was humble about his heroism.

"I'm just saying, I saw someone in distress and went to his aid," Autrey said.

The No. 1 train pulled in and tried to stop to avoid hitting the pair as they lay in a pool of dirty water in the trough. Autrey called out from under the train.

"I said, 'There are two little girls up there,' he said, referring to his daughters Shuqui, 6, and Syshe, 4. "Let them know their daddy is OK."

Tuesday afternoon, members of Autrey's family gathered at his mother's Harlem apartment to cheer his heroism and give thanks for his survival.

"It was the Lord who did it. Can you picture it? God just moved that train over him," said Autrey's mother, Mary Autrey, 69.

Matthew Nestel, Daniel Massey, staff writer Rocco Parascandola and amNewYork staff writer Chuck Bennett contributed to this story.

<http://rc.sun-sentinel.com/news/nationworld/am-sub0103,0,3410181.story?coll=sfla-newsnation-front>