

# *The God of 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances*

2023/12/11 by James B. Fannin (Jim)

**Romans 5:8** (NASB) says, *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

This verse is a powerful reminder of God's love and grace towards us. It is a testament to God's love even when we are at our worst.

The concept of **second chances** is a common theme throughout the Bible. We see it in the story of the prodigal son, where the father welcomes his son back with open arms despite his past mistakes. We also see it in the story of Peter, who denied Jesus three times. Despite the hurt Jesus no doubt felt, Jesus forgave him, giving Peter a second chance to serve Him.

An important part of the idea of a second chance is "**forgiveness**." In **Matthew 6:14-15** (NASB), Jesus says, *"For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."*

This verse reminds us that forgiveness is essential and necessary for the spiritual growth of the person doing the forgiving.

As Christians, we are called to extend **grace** and **forgiveness** to others, just as God has extended it to us. The act of forgiving, i.e., giving someone a second chance, can be difficult at times, especially when someone hurts or wrongs us. That is especially true when that someone is a close friend or family.

However, we must remember that forgiveness is **not about excusing someone's behavior** but releasing us from the mental, emotional, and spiritual prison in which their actions have trapped us.

In summary, **Romans 5:8** is a powerful reminder of God's love and grace toward us. It is a testament to God's love even when we are at our worst. **If God could forgive us even while we were His enemies, certainly, we are obligated to extend the same grace and forgiveness to others, just as God did to us.** As Christians, we must never forget the importance of second chances and forgiveness.

As we approach this moment in time, remember Jesus came so He could forgive us ... let us do likewise with grace and patience now and in the future.