

Dear Friend,

I hope you read last month's letter. If not, you can always find the monthly letters at <https://www.garycarpenter.org/resources.html> (The monthly letters are in the left margin of that page.) I highly recommend you read that letter before reading this one.

There had been a terrible, deadly flood in Texas on the fourth of July 2025. It was headline news for days. I watched those news reports on TV as those heart-broken parents searched the riverbanks in agony ... hoping upon hope they might still yet find their child alive. Their pain resonated deep within me because I have three daughters of my own. I know those parents would have given anything if their child could live again. At that moment the Holy Spirit said, *"Now you know the heart of the Father, who continues to hope upon hope that many of His children can be saved from eternal death."*

Instantly I was plunged into a deeper understanding of the love of God. I always knew Jesus had commanded us to "love our enemies," and I had done my best to obey even though I felt no love for them personally. Suddenly I saw it ... the Father considers all of the lost children of Adam to be "His lost children." The original plan was for Adam and Eve to fill the earth with righteous children made in the image of God. But man fell through sin. His nature changed, and that fallen nature was passed down to all of the children ... who originally were to be God's righteous family on earth.

It was as if God the Father, like those parents in Texas, was standing on the bank of a river of death, watching all of them (who originally were supposed to be His children on earth), now floating down a river of death, spiritually dead toward eternity where they would be lost forever. They were all spiritually dead, with no way to save themselves. There was nothing they could do to make themselves alive again. All man-made religion is the lost trying to save themselves. It is impossible. Life only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 KJV Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 John 5:11-12 KJV And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

God loves them all and wants them all restored back to life. Not just the "good ones." He wants them all back, including those who might be considered the enemies of God. I suddenly thought of Saul of Tarsus. He single-handedly did more damage to the fledgling church than just about anybody else at the time. He fully believed Christianity was a false cult, and he was determined to wipe it off the face of the earth. He personally gave the approval for Stephen to be martyred. Saul would travel far and wide to arrest Christians, bring them to trial, imprison many of them, and have some of them executed.

Acts 9:1 KJV And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Saul of Tarsus was a fierce "enemy" of the gospel. Yet we all know how Jesus went after Saul, appeared to him on the road to Damascus, and brought him into the kingdom of God. Notice how Paul saw it later on,

Galatians 2:20 KJV I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Christ loved Paul even when he was known as Saul, the enemy of the church, and the enemy of the Christ they worshipped. Jesus knew the heart of the Father. God the Father considered even His enemies to be His own lost children. Jesus had come to seek and to save the lost ... even the lost enemies of the gospel. Jesus loved His enemies and died for them, asking forgiveness for them.

This is changing my heart toward many I have often judged to be the enemies of the gospel. Don't get me wrong. They are enemies, otherwise Jesus would not have told us to love our "enemies."

Luke 6:27-28 KJV But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, [28] Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

But from the Father's perspective, every single one of them has the potential to go from being a Saul to a Paul. From being a lost sinner to being reborn as a righteous son of God. It is Jesus bringing life to those lost children of God before time runs out. I can't help but remember the Father's exclamations of joy when His prodigal son returned home,

Luke 15:23-24 KJV And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: [24] For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Let us all continue to yield to the times of intimate fellowship with God through meditation of the Word, worship, prayer and fasting. Let us continue to press toward KNOWING HIM! Paul said that was still his focus even after being an apostle for many years.

Philippians 3:10 KJV That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

And let us be thankful for the Holy Spirit who keeps revealing to us the love of the Father. God is love. Faith works by love. We are being transformed into love ... the God kind of love ... which only comes from God Himself.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY