



The Gospel Life

Our hope in righteousness

The Holy Spirit



Romans 5:1-8:39



Spring Life Group Guide 2023

Part 3

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ABOUT THIS STUDY

Romans 5-8 (part 3)

As we have made our way through two of the five parts of our series in Romans, it is time to begin part 3. In part one, Paul addressed *Mankind's Greatest Problem* and how sin has invaded all of humanity and God's wrath is against it. Since no one is excluded from this problem, everyone needs God's remedy. This leads us to Part 2, *God's Gracious Solution* of salvation through Jesus Christ. We learned no amount of effort can bring about the righteousness we lack and that it can only come through faith in Jesus Christ.

Part 3, which we have titled, **Our Hope in Righteousness**, is 108 verses in length, and it takes us to the end of chapter 8. It begins where Paul writes,

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. - Romans 5:1-2

Hope is *looking forward to something with reasons for confidence respecting fulfillment*. It is the confident expectation that something will happen – not may or might happen. Our hope in righteousness, the "Hope of the glory of God", is our confident expectation that God declares us righteous!

As God declares sinners to be righteous, we see in this section the gracious gifts He gives to the believer. The result of being justified by faith is that we: have peace with God (5:1), have access through Christ into this grace (5:2a), and can boast and rejoice in the glory of God (5:2b). All which accounts for the believer a confidence - and hope – that God will save us from His wrath, Paul continues in 5:9-10,

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life - Romans 5:9-10

The good news is that we are free from condemnation because we are in Christ and have the Holy Spirit. It is the believer's hope and the gracious work of the Spirit that helps them to live a righteous life free from sin!

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. - Romans 8:1-2

PRAYER | CARE | SHARE

PRAYER Leads to **CARE** Opening Ways to **SHARE** the Gospel.

The Prayer, Care and Share strategy is an evangelistic tool intended to equip Christians to pray for unbelievers, show acts of kindness and share their personal testimony and Gospel with the lost.

PRAYER |

When talking about sharing our faith, "Prayer" is asking God to prepare our hearts and the heart of the unbeliever. That our lives would be holy. That our hearts would long for the salvation of the people around us. That we would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and that the unbeliever's heart would be open to the truth of the gospel.

CARE |

"Care" can be described as "building relationships that clearly display a love for God and a love for the unbeliever." Our desire is that we would be a living example of Christ's love for them, and because of this they would be open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As it has been said before, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

SHARE |

Our evangelism starts with Prayer, continues with Care, and finally arrives at Share. "Share" can be described as being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading as we clearly explain the complete Gospel of Jesus Christ to an unbeliever who is open to receive it.

SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS

Share Together

Through studying Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, how are you being challenged to grow in your relationship with the Lord?

Study Together

1. The result of justification is peace with God (v 1). What is the biblical definition of peace and what are cultural misconceptions that Christians need to be aware of?
2. What does the believer now have access to (v 2) that they didn't have before Christ? How can the disciple be careful not to take advantage of this grace (gift of God)?
3. How does scripture define joy and where does it come from? How is this different than happiness which is based on the "happenings" or the circumstances of a person's life?
4. Joy is the result (fruit) of the Spirit's work in the believer's life. In what does Paul encourage the early church to rejoice (v 2-3)? What does it look like for the Christian to live this out?
5. What role does suffering have in the disciple's life (v 3-4)? Is this different than what is broadly taught by the church today? How can we as the church better embrace a biblical theology of suffering?

ROMANS 5:1-5

Notes

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

This quarter, take turns sharing your testimony with one another. How does hearing someone else's experiences remind you that God is a God of grace? How do they bolster your faith?



HOPE IN RECONCILIATION



Share Together

Share one of your favorite rescues from history, film, or literature?

Study Together

1. Discuss the power of hope and how it is a gift from God (v 5). Why do you think God provides hope for the believer? What does a believer's life look like that is filled with hope (Romans 15:13)?
2. Weak, ungodly and sinner are accurate descriptors of a life alienated from God (v 6-8). Why would God need to act on their behalf and what would it cost Him? What does this teach about God's character?
3. What are we offered in a relationship with Christ (v 9)? How does this verse give assurance and hope to a new believer?
4. Consider the weight and implications of being an enemy of God (v 10). How does the word "enemies" help us understand the true condition of humanity and the absolute love that God has for the lost person?
5. Rejoicing is how the believer shows gratitude for the work of Christ in reconciliation. What are different ways the believer shows this great joy?



ROMANS 5:6-11

Notes

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

Is the good news from God and about God increasingly good news to me, news that I long to share with others?



A SYSTEMIC PROBLEM

Share Together

Have you ever received an unexpected gift? If someone you didn't know offered you a very lavish gift, what might you suspect?

Study Together

1. Discuss the origin of sin and how it has permeated the world. How has it affected humanity and the world (v 12)? How can a person know if something is a sin? Why is this a critical doctrine to the Christian faith?
2. Hamartiology (the study of sin) explains that we are all sinners—by inheritance, by imputation and by our own personal choice. How does sin relate to natural law, moral theology, and Christian ethics? Are all sins equal to God?
3. Hamartiology points to the solution for sin—the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. After Paul explains the depth of the problem of sin, what does he say is God's plan for fixing it?
4. Look up: Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 135:6, Isaiah 55:8-9, Jeremiah 32:17, James 1:13-14, 1 John 1:5, and 1 John 4:8. What do these verses teach about the character and nature of God? How do these truths help us understand God's response to the evil and suffering in the world?



ROMANS 5:12-14

Notes

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

In what circumstances is it easy for you to share Christ with others? In what circumstances is it difficult?



DEAD TO SIN

Share Together

Besides your relationship with Jesus, is there another relationship in your life that has taught you about the nature of grace? Who was it with? What did it teach you?

Study Together

1. Here Paul makes a compelling comparison between Adam and Jesus - or sin and salvation. What did this comparison help provide for the early church? What is the relationship between sin and death? What does a proper theology of inherited sin consist of (v 15-17)?
2. Consider how sin is compartmentalized and minimized. Why is it important to understand both the general and specific nature of inherited sin?
3. How did the law "increase trespass" (v20)? How is it that "where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more"? How could someone misinterpret or misapply this?
4. Because where sin abounded grace abounded more (v 20), how does understanding the abundance of God's grace better help define the believer's relationship with sin?
5. Notice the repetition and emphasis of "free gift" (x5). Why is it critical that salvation be a free gift? How does this show up in our applied theology and evangelistic conversations?



ROMANS 5:15-21

Notes

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

How has your appreciation of God's grace changed as you grow older?
How has our study of Romans equipped you to better share His grace with others?



ALIVE TO CHRIST

Share Together

Share a bad habit you have tried to break in the past. Why was it hard for you to break that habit? What is the lure of unhealthy habits?

Study Together

1. What place does sin have in the believer's life? What are the two extremes of grace that we need to be aware of (v 1-2)?
2. What does it mean to "walk in newness of life" (v 4)? What is the relationship we have with the "old self" (v 6)?
3. An ordinance, a term is closely associated with the word sacrament, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. What is the role of baptism in verses 3-5 and why is it critical that the church firmly hold to this ordinance?
4. Discuss the gospel message and what it entails. How is the resurrection an undercurrent and message of hope for the unbeliever (v 5)? For the believer, did the resurrection change the role sin has in their life (v 8-9)?
5. What does a proper application of the truth that the believer is (1) dead to sin and (2) alive to God in Christ look like (v 10)?



ROMANS 6:1-10

Notes

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

How can we remind ourselves (and share with others) that we have a new life in Christ and that we are dead to our old way of living?



INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



Share Together

Who was your first boss? Was this person easy or challenging to work for? What does it mean to you to say that God has authority over your life?

Study Together

1. How does the juxtaposition of these two verb phrases, “enslaved to sin” (v 6) and “let not sin reign” (v 12) help us understand the enveloping and enticing nature of sin?
2. Grace is both broadly and narrowly defined in scripture, specifically here, what does it mean to be “under grace” (v 14)?
3. To be dead to sin means we are no longer controlled by our sin nature. Discuss what becomes of personal sin through repentance and righteousness in Jesus. What does it mean that, “sin will have no dominion over you” (v 14)?
4. Paul firmly cautions believers to make a clean break from their old sinful ways of living. Discuss the tension between passions and obedience that Christians can experience (7:15).
5. How is the Christian to “present” (to be shown or placed beside) themselves? What does it look like to be an instrument of righteousness (v 13)? Compare this to self-righteous and how can someone delineate the two?



ROMANS 6:11-14

Notes

11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

Why is it crucial that we always be mindful of the gospel as we seek to grow in holiness? As we seek to fight sin?



UNDER GRACE

Share Together

If you were to ask a random sample of people in our city, "What is most important in the Christian life?" what kinds of responses do you think you would get? How would you personally answer that question?

Study Together

1. Grace is a gift we don't deserve. Mercy is not getting the punishment we deserve. Paul mentions for a second time that the Christian is under grace (v 15). How does this verse complement what Paul was saying in verse 14?
2. Using the imagery of slavery, Paul appropriately expounds on the parameters of sin and righteousness (v 16). Discuss how sin and righteousness are an "either/or" not a "both/and" for the believer.
3. The law does not and cannot conquer sin, but the grace given to followers of Christ triumphs over sin and death. What is imputed righteousness and how is the imagery of being a "slave to righteousness" encouraging and practical (v 18)?
4. For the weak or rebellious believer who is entangled in sin, how can they have confidence in their salvation (v 22-23)? For the Christian, what is the repercussion of unconfessed sin?



ROMANS 6:15-23

Notes

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

Why do we often fear surrendering our lives completely to God? How does living surrendered enrich your testimony and help you better be a light/city set on a hill?



FREE FROM THE LAW

Share Together

When was a time you felt stuck in a situation but were unexpectedly released? How did it change your perspective on the situation and help you move forward changed?

Study Together

1. Paul, in his letter, begins to hone in on what specific audience? Considering the context of chapter 6 why is his transition appropriately placed?
2. How does the illustration of marriage become a terrific example of how the law is binding (v 1-3)?
3. Discuss what it means to “belong to another” (v 4). In leaning on the illustration of marriage - what is the purpose of belonging to God? How is that purpose different from being a servant of the law (and sin)?
4. The law is designed to reveal sin - and to be a guide that brings people to Christ. For the believer what new role does the law have in their life (v 4-6)?
5. The text says, we are “released from the law” so that we can “serve in the new way of the Spirit”, how do we properly apply this truth and what does it look like to serve in this manner?



ROMANS 7:1-6

Notes

1 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? 2 For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. 3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

How would you describe the difference in your life since coming to know Christ? Who has God put in your life to share about the difference Jesus has made in your life?



SIN EXPOSED

Share Together

Have you ever given good advice to someone only to have them misinterpret or ignore it to their harm? Describe the circumstance.

Study Together

1. Sin is described in the Bible as transgression and rebellion against the law of God (1 John 3:4 & Deut. 9:7). How does sin obscure the law and its true purpose? Is it then sin to follow the law? No! Yet how does following the law lead to (or reveal) sin?
2. Paul again, draws from the law and uses its example of coveting to explain the law's purpose (v 7). How does Paul's letter to the Galatians (3:23-24) additionally explain the purpose of the law?

Sin is a heart-matter and the law will masterfully expose the internal work of sin. So then, how does the deceitful nature of sin seize an opportunity in following the law (v 8-9)?

4. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death (v 10). In the midst of Paul's frustrating struggle with self (v 14-16), what ended up being Paul's hope?
5. How would you characterize Paul's words in these verses? What is the significance of him using personal pronouns as he talks about sin (v 18-20)?



ROMANS 7:7-20

Notes

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

How might you share with someone the love of God by pointing to the goodness of His law and our inability to meet His righteous requirements this week?



AN INWARD WAR



Share Together

When you were young, who had the most influence over your behavior? Why were they so influential, either positively or negatively? Who or what influences you the most today?

Study Together

1. By simply doing something “right”, it doesn’t make something inwardly “right.” How does “doing right” - or following the law - result in evil being “close at hand” (v 21)?
2. These verses succinctly summarize the inward war (v 22-23). How do the linguistics of this sentence help us understand the battle that wages war within us? Is it a war that is attainable - can one be victorious over self?
3. Consider the hope and relief that deliverance brings (v 24-25). Why is it important that this inward battle is won by an outward source (Jesus)?
4. “Who will deliver me?” The living presence of Jesus Christ is the answer to the problem of sin! Discuss why all other solutions will fail in providing any help with the inward war. What is the problem with taking an “I will try harder” approach to overcoming sin?



ROMANS 7:21-25

Notes

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

What makes faith in Christ so precious? How does knowing we have been forgiven of sin through faith in Christ bring peace? Is this a peace you increasingly want to share with others?



FREE FROM SIN

Share Together

How would you describe freedom? If you were released from captivity as a hostage, what would you do during your first week of freedom?

Study Together

1. How would you explain condemnation to someone? Why is there no condemnation for people in Christ? How is the person without Christ already condemned (v 1-3)?
2. What becomes of the law that is rooted in human effort (v 2-3)? Is the law fulfilled for those who are apart from Christ?
3. How is the righteous requirement of the law fulfilled by Christ (v 4)? How is the righteous requirement of the law fulfilled in us (v 5-6)?
4. Specifically, what does it mean for the Christian to have set their mind on the things of the Spirit? How does this please or bring joy to God? How does living for Christ change the desires of our hearts?



ROMANS 8:1-8

Notes

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

What has helped you embrace and walk in the freedom given to you through Christ's Spirit? How can you share this with an unbelieving friend or family member?



TRUE ASSURANCE

Share Together

Have you ever imagined what it might be like to be a part of a royal family? How must it feel to be the heir to a throne? What responsibilities might make you feel inadequate for the task?

Study Together

1. Consider what Paul means when he says, “the Spirit of God dwells” in the believer (note Ephesians 3:17)? Is this a figure of speech or a literal dwelling (v 9,11)? What does the Spirit provide and accomplish in the Christian's life?
2. How does the Spirit of God dwelling in someone assure them that they “belong to” God (v 9)? The Spirit of God provides life for the believer - both immediate and eternal - what are the immediate indicators of life that are present in the believer's life (v 11-13)?

When Paul wrote that we “did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,” to what fear is he referring (v 15)?

4. Paul uses the powerful imagery of adoption to depict the relationship the believer has with God (v 15-16). How does belonging to God and being a child of God provide a firm platform for the doctrine of salvation and eternal security?
5. What does it mean to be a “fellow heir with Christ”; what do we share with him (v 17)? How are suffering and glory generally and specifically lived out in our applied theology?



ROMANS 8:9-17

Notes

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

How has your study in Romans encouraged you to be more purposeful in sharing your faith with others?



HOPE IN SUFFERING

Share Together

Think back over a difficult time in your life. At the time, how did you think God felt about your situation and what did you think He was doing? How was that different from what He actually had planned?

Study Together

1. Discuss the suffering and persecution that took place in the early church. Consider what Paul endured as a servant of Jesus Christ. How does this then lend to the credibility of what Paul is sharing in verse 18?
2. Sin and suffering have impacted all of creation. And creation "waits with eager longing" for the culmination of salvation for God's people (v 19-22). How does a person's perspective and how they engage with creation change as they become a believer?
3. Note each of the verses that refer to hope (v 20,24,25). How does the Christian uniquely define hope? And how does it relate to the context of this passage?
4. As we build a theology of suffering, what distinct roles do suffering, glory and hope have in the believer's life?



ROMANS 8:18-25

Notes

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

Is there anyone in your life right now who needs to hear a word of hope?
What is the best way for you to offer that to them this week?



PREDESTINED WITH PURPOSE



Share Together

Share an example of why you can have confidence that God is a God of ultimate power and supply? Why is this important to you and your situation?

Study Together

1. Discuss the role of the Spirit in the Christian's life. How do these verses provide us with a greater clarity on how well God knows and cares for the heart (v 26-28)? Ultimately what is the deep desire of the Spirit for the saints (v 27b)?
2. Who is the "we" in "we know" at the beginning of verse 28? What does Paul mean for things to "work together for the good" (v 28)? How can this be taken out of context or misapplied? What is a proper application of this verse?



Paul further explains that the work/calling of God in the believer's life is foreknown or predestined (v 29). Why is this an important doctrine to the church today? How has your understanding of predestination been challenged or encouraged through our Sunday teaching?

4. The Christian is predestined "to be" what (v 29)? – what does it mean to be "conformed to the image of His Son"?
5. Consider verse 30 and the work of God in the believer's life. What does it look like to rightly credit God for His profound and generous work in our lives? How does this verse help us understand what Paul previously said in verse 18?



ROMANS 8:26-30

Notes

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

How can we use the truths from today's conversation to pursue those who have not yet put their faith in Christ?



CONFIDENTLY SECURE



Share Together

What situation in your life has required the most perseverance and determination from you? What motivated you to go the distance?

Study Together

1. Review verse 30 together and then discuss how you would answer the question Paul asks in verse 31a, as to a proper response to God's work in the Christian's life? With this in context, to what measure can the Christian have confidence in Paul's following statements (v 31-32)?
2. Discuss the series of rhetorical questions Paul asks in verses 33-35. What thought or idea weaves each of these questions together?
3. How does verse 36 relate to this passage? What does it mean in the context of these verses for believers to be victorious?
4. Consider the things listed in these verses that cannot separate believers from the love of Christ, why can these things not separate believers from the love of Christ (v 38-39)?



ROMANS 8:31-39

Notes

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scripture Reference

Sent Together

Is the good news from God and about God increasingly good news to me, news that I long to share with others?



GOSPEL: A SAVING FAITH

Being a Christian is more than identifying with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means you have embraced what the Bible says about God, humankind and salvation. Consider the following truths about God.

God is Creator. We were created by a personal God to love, serve and enjoy endless fellowship with Him. The New Testament reveals that it was Jesus Himself who created everything. Therefore, He owns everything and has authority over our lives (read John 1:3; Colossians 1:16).

God is Holy. God is absolutely and perfectly holy; and therefore, He cannot commit or approve of any evil. God requires holiness of us as well (read Isaiah 6:3; James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:16).

Humankind is Sinful. God tells us that “there is no man who does not sin.” That does not mean we are incapable of acts of human kindness. But we are totally incapable of understanding, loving or pleasing God on our own (read Romans 3:10-12).

Sin Demands a Penalty. God's holiness and justice demand that all sin be punished by death. That is why simply changing our patterns of behavior cannot solve our sin problem or eliminate its consequences (read Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23; Psalm 145:20).

Jesus is Lord and Savior. God tells us that “If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.” Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love provided a Savior who paid the penalty and died for sinners (read 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:26).

Saving faith is accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sin to Him, and making a choice to turn from sin and to follow Christ as your leader (read Luke 13:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; John 17:3).

SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

If you've never thought about preparing and communicating your story, that's fine (most Christians haven't). Here are simple principles to get you started.

Keep it short. Communicating too many details about your life can distract listeners from the central point: how you met Christ. Keeping it short can help with that. Three minutes is a good target. Remember that the purpose of telling your story is not about you; it's about God. Clearly and succinctly communicate what *he* has done in your life.

Have a before, how, and after. There should be a pretty clear timeline and logical flow to your story. Talk about what your life was like before Christ, how you met him, and what your life's like now. This timeline is different for everyone, of course, but it brings a sense of structure to what you're saying and helps keep your listener tracking.

For those who've been Christians since childhood, be vulnerable about your struggles as a growing Christian—the “how” may be a time when the gospel really sank in, and you understood it at a deeper level. Everyone's story is unique, and there's flexibility in how to share it, but thinking in terms of a timeline can be very helpful.

Clearly present the gospel. You want people to clearly grasp the source of your transformation: Jesus Christ. If people aren't pointed to Christ, they'll be pointed in another direction, which will (of course) ultimately fail them. We want people to come away from our story thinking, “Isn't Jesus amazing? I want him in my life, too.”

Your testimony should show people that God loves them, they're sinful, Jesus is the payment for the penalty of their sin, and they need to trust Christ as the payment for the penalty of their sins in order to have a personal relationship with God. If you haven't shared the gospel in your testimony, you haven't really shared your testimony.

Avoid 'Christianese.' Avoid Christian slang—those words believers use all the time in everyday Christian circles but make no sense to anyone else. We're trying to be clear about what we're communicating, and we need to understand the importance of speaking a language that can be easily understood. We want anyone and everyone to have intellectual access to what we're saying, so eliminate alienating language (or at least be willing to quickly define it).

Practice, practice, practice! You should know your testimony by heart without having any notecards or outline in front of you. If someone asks about your life at the public swimming pool, you won't be able to whip out a piece of paper for reference—so have your story memorized and ready at a moment's notice. It's a good idea to write it out or make an outline, then practice it aloud on your own or with a friend. Eventually you'll know it by heart.

The Gospel Collation: 6 Principles for Sharing your Testimony -2021

NOTES



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