

Sermon-Based Small Group Study Guide

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

“In Christ Believers Have” - Part 2

Romans 8 Part 2 – Bro. Tim Brigham

Message from Sunday, April 28th

Verse of the Week: Memorize and Meditate on Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Romans 8 emphasizes the transformative power of the Spirit, freedom from condemnation, and the glorious future ahead for saints.

Monday – Review last week’s sermon – No Condemnation, No Defeat

No Condemnation - Believers are not facing the ensuing punishment of their sin, because Jesus faced it on their behalf. Many times we misunderstand the meaning of no condemnation for the believer. It doesn’t mean there will be no conviction for sin, because if the Holy Spirit lives in you, He will convict you of sin. It also does not mean there will not be consequences for sin. When we choose to sin, we will still face the consequences of those sins.

Because of the work of Christ in us, the sin nature is conquered. There is a certain character in which every believer should live. In scripture, to be referred to as “a son of” meant to be in the character of the father. As believers, we are made brothers and sisters with Christ and children of God. As “sons and daughters of God” we should live in and reflect the character of our Father.

No Defeat - We can’t know for sure, but some biblical scholars believe that when Paul wrote verse 37 – “we are more than conquerors” – he may have been thinking about the Roman Coliseum. When a gladiator conquered in the arena, he would put his foot on the neck of those he had defeated. Paul says we are MORE than conquerors. Jesus put his foot on Satan’s neck when He rose victoriously from the grave, and now, as children of God, we should live and walk in victory, with our foot on the neck of fully defeated sin.

Our victory in life comes from the work of the Trinity as explained in Romans 8. We benefit from the Adoption of the Father, the Righteousness of the Son, and the Intercession of the Holy Spirit.

Tuesday – No Separation – Read Romans 8:18-39

Why is it that nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ? It is precisely because we did nothing to earn the love of God! We did nothing to earn or achieve salvation apart from the work of His Holy Spirit. We cannot undo what we did not do in the first place!

We are among the things listed (can anything?) that cannot separate us from the love of God. While many today may claim to be “deconstructing their faith,” as we understand this passage, we have to admit that we cannot tear down what God has built. This calls for deep and deliberate discernment: were they ever in the faith to begin with? Are *WE* truly in the faith? Do we often submit ourselves to examination through the Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit to confirm our faith as demonstrated by our continually being transformed into Christlikeness?

The Greek word for separate also means to divide. If we are in Christ Jesus, we are all in the same love, the love of God, a love that is not dependent in any way on us. If this is true, if we all live in the same love of God, should we be divided? In the same way that rulers and powers cannot separate us individually from the love of God, rulers and powers should not be able to separate us as brothers and sisters in Christ. This calls into question how some Christians treat one another over matters of finance, culture, ethnicity, and politics.

Wednesday – No Separation (continued) – Read Romans 8:18-39

The apostle voiced his confidence that there is nothing that could separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. His list of ten terms moves from physical danger through the hierarchy of superhuman powers, those that now exist or ever will, powers from on high or from below, and culminates in the inclusive phrase “anything else in God’s whole world” (Phillips).²¹³ There is absolutely nothing that can ever drive a wedge between the children of God and their Heavenly Father. It is true that

life contains its full share of hardships (v. 18). But God is at work in all the circumstances of life to conform those whom he has chosen into the likeness of his dear Son. The process is God's. We are his workmanship (Eph 2:10). The process of sanctification is intended to bring us into conformity with the nature of our Creator. Although it may at times involve some serious pruning (John 15:2; cf. Heb 12:5–11), we may be sure that love is at work on our behalf. We are forever united with the one who is perfect love.¹

Thursday – Suffering and Struggles – Read Romans 8:18-39

“What then shall we say” refers to our suffering and struggles. As believers, even though we have no condemnation, no defeat, and no separation, we still have suffering and struggles. Suffering can serve a purpose – if we respond properly, it produces glory to God in our lives. Starting with vs. 17, Romans 8 makes it clear that God intends for us to suffer as Christ suffered. God uses suffering to produce character and endurance (Romans 5).

Vs. 18 is often taken to mean glory in heaven, but there is potentially another understanding of the glory that is being revealed NOW. Lost people suffer because of the fallen nature of creation due to sin. Their suffering has no purpose, no meaning, and does not produce glory for God. We as believers likewise suffer, but because God uses suffering in our lives to make us more like Christ, our suffering has meaning, purpose, value, and produces glory for God NOW and rewards for us in heaven if we respond appropriately, with faith. Understanding the value of suffering may help us to better understand the “more abundant life” Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

Illustration - The Unbreakable Chain: Imagine a chain forged from unbreakable links. Each link represents a different challenge we face: sickness, loss, doubt, fear. Yet, woven through these links is a golden strand—the love of God. It binds us to Him, unyielding and indestructible. Romans 8:38-39 assures us that neither height nor depth, angels nor demons, nor anything else in all creation can sever this divine connection. The chain of God's love holds us securely. (*sermoncentral.com*)

¹ Mounce, R. H. (1995). [Romans](#) (Vol. 27, p. 192). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Friday – So What? – Read Romans 8:

As a result of what we have learned over these past two weeks, how should we live?

Hope – Vs. 24 – confident assurance that something is going to happen. Can I say, as Paul does, “nothing can separate me from the love of God?” Am I living every day with that confidence?

- I’m not afraid of what happens.
- I don’t complain about circumstances.
- There is no need to worry about my situation.

Am I living knowing that my eternity is secure because of the promise of God that I am His child, I have right standing because of the righteousness of Jesus, and I have help in the times that I’m struggling because of the Intercession of the Spirit?

Consider the lyrics of one of our favorite hymns in light of Romans 8:

*God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!*

*How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he brings;
But greater still the calm assurance: this child can face uncertain days because He Lives!*

*And then one day, I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, Just because He lives!*

Saturday – Read Romans 8 and review for Small Group.

The purpose of sermon-based small group study is to encourage and equip us to apply what we learn during weekly sermons into our daily lives through discussion. Scripture teaches that we are accountable for our obedience to Biblical teaching, just as our leaders are accountable to teach. Hearing the Word of God taught through the sermon and then applying it makes us mature disciples and examples (witnesses) to others (James 1:22-25).