

ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

More Than Conquerors

• Romans 8 : 28 - 39 •

Week 16

DEVOTION

Life is not a bed of roses. It is filled with unpredictable ups and downs, unexpected twists and turns. During challenging times, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. However, in our passage this week, we discover a deeply comforting reassurance that we are never alone in this journey called life.

Romans 8:28 is a well-known verse that states, "In all things God works together for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose." It conveys a glorious and profound promise that isn't limited to isolated incidents but extends to the entirety of our lives. This promise is specifically given only to believers, to "those who love Him" and "have been called according to His purpose".

All things - every joy, sorrow, challenge, triumph, pain, suffering and even sin - are being woven together by God for our ultimate good. Nothing in our lives is left to chance; everything falls under the sovereign control of God. When you feel helpless and hopeless, remember that Jesus is holding you together because He is in control.

What does 'good' mean to you? Is it having good health, wealth and prosperity, success and promotions, popularity or a comfortable life? Matt Chandler says "Comfort is the god of our generation, so suffering is seen as a problem to be solved, and not a providence from God." Often we think of 'good' in terms of material gains and temporal comfort. But God's definition of 'good' far surpasses our own.

So what is God's definition of 'good'? Paul defines it for us in verse 29: "that we will be conformed to the image of his Son". That is God's purpose for believers and there is no other greater good than being molded into the character of Jesus. It's truly astounding that sinful individuals like us will one day be completely conformed to the image of His Son.

God never asks us to ignore reality. Sin, sickness, suffering and other evils are a part of life on this earth. They are not inherently good but God brings lasting good out of them. As we reflect on these verses, we can find comfort knowing that nothing in this life is wasted. God uses the trials we face, the pain we endure and the lessons we learn to mold us and transform us into the likeness of His Son. Our hope rests in Jesus through whom we can find security and be more than conquerors.

Monday

Read: Romans 8:28 - 29; Ephesians 1:11

Secure in God's Sovereignty. Romans 8:28 offers a powerful promise to all believers, assuring us that God works for our good in every situation.

1. How does this promise encourage you in times of suffering and struggle? Reflect on how you might pray when grappling with situations where it's hard to see how God will bring about good?

2. Consider how you can trust God more deeply, even in times of uncertainty. What steps can you take to surrender your worries and fears to Him?

3. Reflect on a recent challenge or difficult experience. How might God be using this situation to shape you more into the likeness of Christ?

Tuesday

Read: Romans 8:29 - 30; Jonah 2:9; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 1:6

Secure in God's Redemption Plan. Romans 8:29 - 30 outlines the sequence of God's redemptive work, featuring 5 essential doctrines: (1) foreknowledge, (2) predestination, (3) calling, (4) justification, and (5) glorification. These 5 doctrines are intricately linked in an unbreakable chain, often referred to as the golden chain of salvation.

1. The golden chain illustrates that the work of salvation is entirely God's, from start to finish. As the prophet Jonah declares "Salvation belongs to the Lord!" (Jonah 2:9). Does this truth bring you comfort and give you security in your salvation? Why or why not?

2. In glorification, God will remove us from the presence of sin and place us into an eternal state of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17). While we are still struggling with sin on this earth, why do you think Paul speaks of glorification in the past tense in Romans 8:30? [See Philippians 1:6.]

Wednesday

Read: Romans 8:31 - 34; Deuteronomy 31:6; Philippians 4:19

Secure in God's Protection. The phrase "God is for us" signifies a covenant relationship and reminds us of God's promises to Israel, where He assures His people of His presence and support (Deuteronomy 31:6). This assurance is rooted in the faithfulness of God.

1. How does knowing that "God is for us" change your perspective on the challenges you currently face? In what ways can you remind yourself of God's support when you feel overwhelmed by opposition?

2. In what ways can you trust God to provide for your needs, knowing He has already given His Son for you?

3. How can you use this passage to inspire or encourage someone else who is struggling with fear or doubt?

Thursday

Read: Romans 8:35 - 39; Jeremiah 31:3; 2 Corinthians 11:23 - 28

Secure in God's Love. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? This rhetorical question underscores the inseparable bond between believers and Christ's love. The love of Christ is demonstrated through His sacrificial death and ongoing intercession. This echoes the covenantal faithfulness of God throughout Scripture, such as His unwavering commitment to Israel despite their unfaithfulness (Jeremiah 31:3)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23 - 28. Paul faced much persecution and suffered severely for the sake of the gospel. Despite everything, he remained steadfast and wrote confidently about the love of Christ. How does knowing this strengthen your faith and give you comfort when facing personal trials or hardships?

2. To conquer is to be victorious over an adversary. To be "more than conquerors" is to have an overwhelming victory. Verse 37 tells us that the source of this overwhelming victory is "through him who loved us", referring to Jesus. In what ways can you rely on Christ's love to overcome specific trials in your life today?

3. To be more than conquerors means we face the trials of life with the certainty that we are not alone. How can the church community provide support and encouragement to those facing persecution or trials for their faith today?

Friday

Read: Romans 8:28 - 39; Ephesians 3:17 - 19

Our Absolute Security with God: Romans 8 begins and ends with profound declarations of our absolute security before God. Verse 1 declares emphatically "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This assurance of no condemnation is rooted in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus. In the final verses, Paul confidently declares that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Reflect on a time when you felt distant from God's love. How does this passage challenge or change that perception?

2. What do you learn about God and His character from this week's passage?

Worship. Spend some time praising God for His unwavering love, His redemptive work, His faithfulness, His protection and the absolute security that we have in God.