

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 8:31-39)

Romans 8 written for our encouragement in difficult seasons of life: persecution, suffering, loss, discouragement.
-No Condemnation; Greatest gift: Spirit; point of life=God's glory (Jesus' death/resur)=life all about Jesus!

READ Romans 8:31-39 -So when you are overwhelmed/feel alone/accused/lied/confused...

“What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was ^lraised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? *Will* tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Vs. 31: “What then shall we say to these things? What things? Paul is summing up everything he has just shared to encourage the Believer:

Vs. 1: Therefore, there is *now* **no** condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. = Once we are in Christ, and since He has already paid our judgment, our penalty, our condemnation for our very sin – God as a just/loving God does not require a double payment. Jesus has perfectly accomplished salvation. If we are in Christ, we belong to God; & **if we belong to God, we belong to Him forever.**

Vs. 11: But if the Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. God's greatest gift He left with us on this earth until we go home to glory IS His Holy Spirit, a part of God Himself who lives within us (Emmanuel); the Spirit leads us, convicts, helps, encourages, enlightens, inspires, teaches, intercedes, & gives us abund. life! =Spirit sanctifies us daily to make us more into the image of the Son, Jesus=how we glorify God!

Vs. 16: The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, =all that God has prepared for us **-if** indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*. =Suffering is normative for the Christian life. (does that shock you?) Lk 9:23 “deny, take up cross, follow me”

Vs. 18: For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be* compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Eter. perspective: suff. (short time/great ben. like Je

Vs. 28: And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose =God is going to use our blessings & cursings (pain/trials/loss) to *mold us* into the Son's image=prep us for an eternity worship

Vs. 29: For those whom God foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son In this life, not only do we get salv./purpose for living (God's glory), but we get the assurance that **NO** part of our life, no painful experience is ever wasted in God Kingdom=purp.

And then Paul caps all this incredibly Good News with the Assurance of our salvation:

Vs. 29: Those whom He foreknew, He predestined, He also called; He justified; He also glorified

So Paul ends this thought with, so what??? **Vs. 31:** “What then shall we say to these things?

If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? Nothing is bigger than God; nothing/no one more powerful: -2 Kings 6:15-17 “Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, “This is hopeless, my master! ^[e]What are we to do?” ¹⁶ And he said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are ^[f]greater than those who are with them.” ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, “Lord, please, open his eyes so that he may see.” And the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” =we serve a mighty God. **He has got you!**

-Not only is God big enough, He is generous enough. God, Father knows how to give good gifts
-1Cor. 2:9 “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the human heart, **All** that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Vs. 32: God who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? If God was willing to sacrifice His own Son for us, what else would be too much? Christ inherits ALL. We, who are In Christ, inherit all too!
-So in light of all this truth and reality about your present life/future in heaven =glory...How do you respond when life is hard? When you are lied to/lied about/persecuted?

Vs. 33: *Who will bring charges against God’s elect? Who has the authority to unseat your salv.?*
=No One can!! Why? God is the one who justifies [saves us];

Vs. 34: *Who is the one who condemns?* =No one can! Why? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Vs. 35: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?* Nothing/no one on earth can!

36: Just as it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ But *in all these things* [torture, persecution, mockery, even death]=&

none of us have had to suffer that much. Thus, if the extreme pain/rejection in this life is covered by Christ for us, we can (through the Spirit’s help Vs. 26) = in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. Christ endured all of this already for us

-Heb. 12:2 “fix your eyes on Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, & has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” =Jesus perfectly accomplished our salv. **He did what we could never do!**

-Jesus paid the ultimate price with His life, death = for our salv.= for an etern. rel. w/ God WHY?

-God sent His Son (gave Him up to rejection, abuse, torture, the most shameful death)

WHY?? **Because God LOVES us.** True, genuine, unconditional, sacrificial LOVE

-Jn 3:16 “For God SO loved this world, He gave His one and only Son”

-Rom. 5:8 “For God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners (enemies of God), Christ Jesus died for the ungodly.”

Vs. 38: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing** will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This love of God that was proven/demonstrated by sacrifice of Jesus. =**Perfect love**

APPLICATION =Perfect love, unfailing, merciful, sufficient, universe-altering, and life-changing love “**God is rich with love, and he’s a big spender.**” Ray Ortlund

As Believers, “God has tilted the universe in our eternal favor.” b/c we get Him *now* and in the end -forever!! =HOPE is in the finished work of Christ which now defines me! My life/fut.

=Our response to Rom. 8 is to **BELIEVE**. To fully trust Christ in ALL circumstances. Esp. pain
-Is God Sovereign? Rom. 8 declares YES! -Is God good? Rom. 8 declares YES! -Trustworthy?
=Proved He is by sending Son Jesus for us.

Here, in Romans 8, God answers the questions you may be having this morning?
(Paul is *anticipating* your questions & anticipating your doubts, pain, fear, loss, wounds):

-Am I too bad/sinful for God to truly love me? Feel worthless =(heart of despair)

-Am I still trying to earn God’s love (if I just did more) Feel helpless =(heart of fear)
=trying to find my acceptance and peace through control and earning God’s favor.

Gospel Gap/Gospel Amnesia (God here in Rom. 8 is reminding us what is **True, Eternal, Good**)

-Doubting Gods love? Struggling with your truest identity?

-Who does God say you are worth (you were worth Jesus’ life/sacrificial death)

-Who can condemn you? Yourself? (we are our own worst enemy/selftalk). **Others?** NO!

-Who can make Christ leave you? What could cause you to lose salvation? Yourself? NO!
Satan? No! **Others?** No!

(If your Salv. *is* secure, If God *is* truly Sov., & eternally good, If you *can’t* earn His love bc He has already poured it out & lavished you w/love & grace; If you are etern. accepted/wanted) AND IF you truly Believe this ...

-If I live my life like this is actually true, *how* would this free me to love my wife and family?

-If I truly believe that Jesus is interceding for me and his prayers are always answered - how would that affect how I live my life. Serve others. Be holy

-How would this work out for us if we began to live as the truly forgiven people that we are.

-How would this change my heart, my mentality, my hope, my purpose, & my attitude **when** I experience real suffering? That pain would push me into His loving arms & encourage me to **praise** Him & **TRUST** Him NO MATTER WHAT = **this is the ultimate witness for Christ.**