

Romans – Bible Study – Chapter 8:28-39

Though we continue to suffer in this life due to the curse and sin that pervades the world, Paul has given us hope that what Christians endure now is but a temporary measure. The Holy Spirit, given to us as our Helper and Counselor, helps to intercede on our behalf as we pray to God. He prays according to God's will, helping to make sure our prayers are heard by God.

As we conclude chapter eight, we are presented with good news regarding our salvation and standing with God. Paul is bringing reassurance to believers that what we are experiencing is all to the glory of God.

God's Everlasting Love

(Verses 28-30) When Paul talks about "all things", are there any exclusions? How are we to live in light of this passage? In verses 29-30, how do we view what God is doing in our lives?

(Verses 28-30) What does it mean "For those whom he (God) foreknew"? To those He foreknew, what does He promise to do with them?

(Verses 31-34) In the following verses (v. 32, 33, 34), how does Paul convince us that God will complete His work in us?

(Verses 35-39) What assurances of salvation do we have in Christ from these passages? In what ways does this comfort us as to how we view our salvation in Christ?

In the previous study, Paul shows us what God has in store for His children. We will share in Christ's inheritance (v.17), we will be freed from all suffering (v.21), and our bodies will be redeemed (v.23) as we wait to be conformed to the image of Christ (v.29). Paul is assuring the Roman Christians that God's plan to glorify them will be achieved, no matter what they may be facing in the present. For the work He is doing in them (and us) is the work that He started before the beginning of time and that He will definitely complete in eternity. This is one of the Bible's greatest passages on the sovereignty of God, reminding us that He really does rule over His world and that our lives really are in His hands. This is a particular comfort for Christians who are suffering in the present and who may find many reasons to doubt their security.

Point to Ponder: What sufferings are you facing at the moment? How can you pray for them in the light of this passage?