

ROMANS 9

1. What is the best news in the world that God and Paul are teaching us in Romans 8:1?
 - That God will never condemn those who believe in Christ.
2. Why do most people not understand sin and how it condemns us to death?
 - Because they do not understand how holy God is
 - Because they do not understand how evil sin is.
3. From Romans 8:1, we can say that there are only two types of people in the world. Who are these people?
 - Those who are condemned because of their sin.
 - Those whom God will never condemn.
4. What are the two laws which God and Paul speak of?
 - The law of sin and death and the law of the Spirit.
5. What is the law of sin and death?
 - It is the Old Testament Law of God.
6. How can the Old Testament Law of God be a law of sin and death?
 - Because no one can perfectly keep the law, the result is sin and death.
7. What has the law of the Spirit done for Christians?
 - Set us free from the law of sin and death.

8. In Romans 8:3, the Word of God says, “[God] condemned sin in the flesh.” What does this mean?
 - It means that God has judged sin to be unworthy to be a part of our lives.
 - It means that God has judged sin to be unworthy to rule in our lives.
 - It means that God took away sin as the owner of our lives.
9. What are the two natures which God and Paul speak of?
 - The flesh and the Spirit.
10. What are the three major definitions of the word “flesh” in the Bible?
 - One: Our human body.
 - Two: For non Christians, their sinful nature.
 - Three: For Christians, their old habits before being saved.
11. What does it mean to live according to the flesh?
 - To live independently of God.
 - To live in dependence on oneself.
 - To live with oneself as one’s own god.
12. When a person and his mind are governed by the flesh and sin, what is their life like?
 - They and their minds are hostile to God.
 - They and their minds do not want to submit to God.
 - They and their minds cannot submit to God.

-In this lesson, we continue with the theme: “The Righteousness of God Alone lives a Holy Life in Us.”

Let’s read Romans 8:14

14-For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

-In this verse, we learn that God the Holy Spirit leads the children of God.

-Does the phrase “children of God” mean only children?
-No.

-Whether we are young or old, if we believe in God, then we are His children, and He is our Father.

-Why is this truth important that God the Holy Spirit leads us?

-Because God never pushes us from behind.
-Because God goes ahead of us to clear the way.

-Because God allows us to follow according to our own understanding.

-In other religions, people are pushed, but God never wants to push us from behind.

-In other religions, people must go ahead, but God

always goes ahead of us to clear the way.

-In other religions, people must follow even though they might not understand, but God allows us to follow according to our own understanding.

-How does God the Holy Spirit lead us?

-There are two major ways God the Holy Spirit leads us.

-First, He helps us to understand who He is.
-Second, He helps us to allow Him to be our God.

-When does God the Holy Spirit help us to understand who He is?

-When we read His Word.

-If you want to understand more about God, then you will read more about Him in the Word of God.

-This is because God and His Word are one.

-How does God the Holy Spirit help us to allow Him to be our God?

-When we understand more about our God.

-The more we learn about our God, the more we understand Him, and then, the more we allow Him to be

our God.

Let's read Romans 8:15

15-The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

-When we believe in Christ, it is God Himself who adopts us into His family.

-What is an adoption?

-A father and mother bring a child into their family, and the child becomes a full member of the family.

-When you are adopted, all of your previous relationships are gone.

-And in your new relationship, you become a full member, and have full inheritance.

-What does adoption mean for Christians?

-This means that our old relationship with sin, death, and Satan is gone.

-And that God our Father has made us a full member of His family that we will receive the inheritance of God

Himself.

-In 2 Samuel 9:1-13, we have an example of adoption when King David adopted Mephibosheth.

-Mephibosheth's grandfather, King Saul, wanted to kill David, but David adopted Mephibosheth anyway.

-Mephibosheth was crippled in both feet, and could not work, but David adopted Mephibosheth anyway.

-David had Mephibosheth eat at the king's table, and gave Mephibosheth all of the inheritance of King Saul.

-If you are a Christian, this is how God has adopted us.

-And if you are a Christian and have no family here on earth, what should you know?

-That you have family in eternity, for God has adopted you into His family, and you now have the inheritance of God Himself.

-Because God has adopted us, we are able to call God our Father.

-God is the best Father than we can ever have.

Let's read Romans 8:16

16-The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

-Who tells our spirit that we truly have been born into the family of God?

-The Holy Spirit.

-This verse also helps us to understand that if we believe in Christ, then God the Holy Spirit is not only a part of our lives, but the Holy Spirit and our spirit are one.

Let's read Romans 8:17

17-Now if we are children, then we are heirs —heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

-In this verse, God and Paul are teaching us that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

-What does it mean to be a co-heir of Christ?

-All that Christ has inherited, we as Christians will also inherit the same.

-Christians will sit on the heavenly throne with Christ and rule with Him.

-Christians will also receive all of the blessings and

glory that are of Christ.

-If your father and mother die, then perhaps, you will inherit their house or money or animals.

-But God wants us to understand that if we believe in Christ, we will not die, and will inherit God and all of His glory.

-Is there a greater inheritance than inheriting God and all of His glory?

-No.

-In this verse, God and Paul are also teaching us that it is guaranteed that Christians will share in God's glory.

-If God has saved you, He will share His glory with you.

-To share in God's glory also means to be perfect.

-Now, we are being made perfect and one day, we will be completely perfect with a glory that God has always wanted for us.

-God is our inheritance, and there is no greater inheritance in eternity.

-If we believe in Jesus, there is no power in all of eternity that can hinder or stop our inheritance in Christ.

-At the end of the verse, Paul writes: “If indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

-What does this mean?

-To begin with, the “if” is better translated “because.”

-Paul, therefore, is writing, “Because indeed we share in his suffering in order that we may also share in his glory.”

-God is teaching us that it is not only possible, but rather certain that Christians will suffer.

Let’s read Romans 8:18

18-I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

-Why is there suffering in the world?

-Firstly, because there is sin in the world.

-Secondly, because God/Jesus said that we will suffer.

-Jesus promised us in John 16:33 that “In this world you will have trouble.”

-The Word of God promises us in 2 Timothy 3:12 that

“everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

-For the Christian, what does suffering do?

-Suffering brings glory to God, and benefits those who suffer for Christ.

-How does suffering bring glory to God?

-When we suffer, we are telling the world that knowing God is greater than any suffering.

-When we suffer unjustly, we are a picture of Christ to the world, proclaiming His glory and revealing Him to those who don’t know Him.

-How does suffering benefit the Christian?

- 1) Helps us to cry out to God
- 2) Helps us to better understand God
- 3) Helps us to increase our faith in God
- 4) Helps us to understand that nothing can take away our faith in God.
- 5) Helps us to hate sin.

-When we suffer, we should understand this truth:

-Nothing that we suffer here on earth will bring us any eternal harm, but rather only eternal blessings.

Let's read Romans 8:19-22

19-For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

20-For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

21-that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22-We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

-It is not only Christians who wait and look forward to a new and perfect life.

-These verses tell us that creation also waits and looks forward to a new and perfect life.

-What is creation?

-Creation is not angels nor demons nor Satan.

-Creation is the earth along with all plant and animal life.

-When Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed the earth, and the earth now lives under this curse.

-This is why our crops do not always fully produce, and why snakes and animals hurt us.

-One day, however, God will restore creation by giving the earth a new and perfect life.

-Just like Christians will have a new and perfect life, the earth as well will have a new and perfect life.

Let's read Romans 8:23

23-Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

-Not only does creation groan to be completely perfect, but we Christians also groan to be completely perfect.

-After being saved, we groan to be completely perfect, and eagerly wait for our adoption.

-Earlier, in Romans 8:15, we learned that God has already adopted us.

-Are we still waiting to be adopted?

-No.

-While God has truly adopted us, we are only waiting for God to pick us up, and take us to our new home.

-Also in Romans 8:23, we learn that we have the "firstfruits of the Spirit." What does this mean?

-In the Old Testament, Israel had a celebration of the first fruits.

-The Israelites would bring the first fruit of their harvest to God.

-This meant that the first fruits were only a beginning, and that God would give them even more.

-In other words, the blessings of God are only beginning, and God will give us so much more.

-After Christ ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell the apostles on the feast of the firstfruits.

-Therefore, what does it mean that Christians have the “firstfruits of the Spirit”?

-The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the first fruit of God working in the lives of every Christian.

-And the continued presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the continual fruit of what God has prepared for us for eternity.

-Finally, at the end of this verse, we are taught that our adoption will also result in the redemption of our bodies.

-For us Christians, because our spirits are already redeemed in Christ, it is our bodies or our remaining

humanness that needs to be redeemed.

-As we have already learned, our bodies or our remaining humanness is called our flesh.

-What do God and Paul mean when they talk of the redemption of our bodies?

-Our resurrected bodies will be somewhat like Christ’s resurrected body, that is, sinless, righteous, and eternal.

-Later, we will study more of our new, heavenly bodies.

Let’s read Romans 8:24-25

24-For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?

25-But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

-We cannot separate hope from being saved.

-In the past, God planned to save us.

-In the present, God has now saved us.

-In the future, God will complete our salvation by taking us to heaven.

-This is our hope that our God gives to all of us who are His children.

-And our hope is not based on our lack of faith, but rather on the sure promises of our God.

-Our hope is not that we probably may not lose our salvation, but rather that we cannot lose it.

Let's read Romans 8:26-27

26-In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

27-And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

-Even though we are saved, as Christians, we are still weak.

-Even though we are saved, as Christians, sin, death, and Satan are still more powerful than people.

-It is when we are weak, however, that we can call on God to help us.

-It is when we are weak, however, that we can allow God to help us.

-In 2 Corinthians 12:10, Paul wrote this: "When I am weak, I am strong."

-What did Paul mean?

-When we recognize our weakness, we can allow God the Holy Spirit to be our strength.

-That which we could never do as Christians by ourselves, God the Holy Spirit does through us.

-How does the Holy Spirit help us when we don't know what to pray for?

-The Holy Spirit prays for us in our hearts.

-Even when we do not know our needs, God the Holy Spirit in us brings our needs before God the Father, for the Father and the Holy Spirit are one.

Let's read Romans 8:28

28-And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

-This verse is one of the best promises in God's Word.

-We can be sure that whatever God allows in our lives, He promises to use it for our best.

-Whether God allows good or bad in our lives, He promises to use it for our best.

Let's read Romans 8:29-30

29-For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

30-And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

-Who is God's "firstborn"?

-Jesus.

-What does it mean that Jesus is God's firstborn?

-It means that because Jesus is God's eternal Son, He has the place of authority in God's family.

-What does it mean that God foreknew us?

-From Jeremiah 1:5, we learn that before God formed us in the womb, He knew everything about us.

-What does it mean that God predestined us?

-It means that God decided to make us to be like Christ.

-How long has God been planning to make us to be like Christ?

-Since before God made the world.

-Before God made the world, He decided that He would

make all believers to be like Jesus.

-This is the meaning of having been "conformed to the image of his Son."

-It means that we will be like Christ in every way except for His deity.

-What does it mean that God called us?

-It means that God calls our spirit to believe in Him.

-What does it mean that God justified us?

-It means that God saved us by giving us His righteousness.

-What does it mean that God glorified us?

-It means that God has already guaranteed to share His glory with us.

-How does God accomplish all of this?

-God uses everything that He allows to happen to us so that one day we will be like Jesus.

Let's read Romans 8:31

31-What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

-If God is for us, is there anyone greater than God who

could rob us of our salvation?

-No.

-If God is for us, can a priest or an elder of a church take away our salvation?

-No.

-If Almighty God has saved us, how can a mere mortal take away our salvation?

-They cannot.

-If God is for us, can Satan or any of his demons take away our salvation?

-No.

-If Almighty God has saved us, how can any of His creatures take away our salvation?

-They cannot.

-Can Christians sin greatly which would take away our salvation?

-No.

-If Almighty God has saved us, how can any act on our part take away our salvation?

-It cannot.

Let's read Romans 8:32

32-He who did not spare his own Son, but gave

him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

-Would God sacrifice His Son to give us eternal life, and then kick us out of heaven?

-No.

-Would God save us while we were His enemies, and then, after we have become His children, kick us out of heaven?

-No.

-Would God, after having cleansed us from sin and given us His righteousness, kick us out of heaven?

-No.

-Would Christ take back our salvation that He Himself has given us?

-No.

-If Christ's power on the cross is enough to save us, is not Christ's power to keep us saved enough?

-Yes.

-If Christ has given us eternal life, then how can this eternal life be taken away?

-It cannot.

-Jesus Christ never offers to us temporary salvation, but only eternal salvation.

-Christ not only gives us our salvation, but He also maintains our salvation.

-God has given us His very best when He gave us Jesus to die for us.

-Because of this, we should be very sure that He will give us everything else that we need.

Let's read Romans 8:33

33-Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

-Who is it that chooses us to believe?

-God.

-Who is it that chooses to save us?

-God.

-If God Himself has chosen us to believe and chosen us to be saved, then how can anyone judge us differently?

-No one can.

Let's read Romans 8:34

34-Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised

to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

-At the beginning of Romans 8, we learned that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

-Now, at the end of Romans 8, God and Paul are reminding us that no one can ever condemn us for our sins.

-Why is this so?

-By raising Jesus from the dead and by seating Him at His right hand, God the Father is showing the world that He has accepted Christ's payment for sin.

-If God the Father were not completely satisfied with Christ's payment for our sin, then He never would have been raised from the dead.

-What does it mean that Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father?

-It means that Christ has finished His work for our salvation, and has taken His throne as the Lord of heaven and earth.

-As Christ is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, He continually prays for us.

-We should never forget that when we are tempted or discouraged or worried or sick, Jesus is praying for us.

-Does Jesus only pray for us when we have problems?

-No.

-Jesus prays for us all of the time.

-Jesus is always thinking about us.

-For every day of our lives here on earth, Jesus continues to pray for us.

Let's read Romans 8:35-39

35-Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

36-As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered 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 convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

39-neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Can death take us away from the love of God in Christ?

-No.

-Can demons take us away from the love of God in Christ?

-No.

-Can anything in all of creation take us away from the love of God in Christ?

-No.

-Is there anything that we can do that will force God to stop loving us?

-No.

-Is there anything that will make God forget His wonderful plan for us?

-No.

-Many Christians have been persecuted and killed because they followed Jesus.

-But can even death separate us from God and His love?

-No.

-If we die, we immediately go to heaven to be with our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-In Christ, we are more than conquerors.