

Romans 8:18-39 "Step by Step"

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

Thoughts and considerations

Romans 8 is where we are to live so to speak. Realizing that we are justified by faith in Jesus and that He has set us free from the power of sin. We are now invited to grow in this new life, the Life in the Spirit.

See last week's handout for verses 1-17

V18- *“Therefore do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”* 2Corinthians 4:16, 17

V19- The grace life we live has been anticipated by men and women of God for generations prior to the Cross. Peter said it this way concerning the *revealing of the sons of God*;

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you” 1Peter 1:10

V20-22, When mankind sinned against God in the garden of Eden then death entered the world. All creation is impacted by sin and likewise all creation will experience the victory of Jesus. Consider Revelation 21 where the new heaven and the new earth and the New Life are spoken of.

V23-25 We ‘are’ the *firstfruits of the Spirit* and we have the firstfruits of the Spirit. In this New Life in the Spirit we *groan* in these mortal bodies, longing for the time (*hope*) when we will inhabit our new eternal heavenly bodies. *Hope*= Eager expectation of coming good. This expectation is a certainty not a mere possibility!

V26, 27- There are times in this new life of faith that we just do not know what to say in prayer. At these times we do well to look to God, even though we do not know what to say to Him. He, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will lead us into a deeper understanding of His presence. In difficult times He often leads us to a deeper intimacy, not through our intellect, but rather through a love language that transcends known vocabulary.

V28-Remember to keep this verse in the ‘context’ that it is presented. The context is oriented in your relationship to Him, specifically that He is Lord and He leads you. The Spirit teaches, helps, intercedes, searches the hearts of those who trust Him.

V29, 30- God is all-knowing, therefore He knew before the foundations of the world who would respond to His offer of forgiveness. This is not a violation of our free will, it is simply His foreknowledge. When people struggle with the thought of pre-destination vs free will the struggle is always fueled by our lack of foreknowledge. Because we do not have complete foreknowledge, we chase thoughts and assumptions while lacking accurate information. We have free will and He has always known how each individual will exercise their free will.

V31-The first question of this verse is directing us to the second question. Free will, predestination, God working all things for the good, Holy Spirit helping and comforting... Is God for us? Then, who can be against us?

V32- In street terms; ‘The cross reveals the commitment’.

V33- God has adopted us into His family, who is above Him that can bring a charge against Him?

V34- It is if to say; ‘Who has authority above Jesus?’

V35, 36- His electing us into the family, His commitment, His patience, all reveal His love for us. So, what in this world can separate us from His love?

V37-*All these things*- speaks of the hardships, hurts, trials, sufferings which have a way of endearing us to Jesus

V38,39- This means a lot coming from Paul who had endured so much suffering and hardships as a faithful servant of Jesus.

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” 2 Peter 3:18