

# NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

— A Study of Romans —

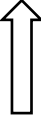
Lesson Seventeen

Romans 8:29-39

*He who did not spare his own Son  
but gave him up for us all,  
how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?  
Romans 8:32*

## Day 1

### Pray:



*Father, help me to grasp the depth of riches that you have for me in your word. Teach me, and lead me into a greater understanding of these remarkable truths.*

**Read:** Romans 8:29-39. Read it again in another translation such as NLT.

### Observe:

- Write key words and themes, repeated words, or phrases. Circle on your Scripture pages any transition words (therefore, but, because, if/then etc.)
- Are there any commands to be obeyed, or truths to be trusted?
- What questions do you have about the text?

## Day 2- Romans 8:29-30

1. We see the unbreakable chain of God's grace in verses 29 and 30. Using verse 30, complete the remainder of the chain.

Foreknew → predestined → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

〔 **Foreknew**- to love beforehand; to set apart for a covenant relationship. 〕

### Digging Deeper:

Paul says that God foreknew—meaning he loved beforehand. Read the following verses. How do they explain the meaning of *beforehand*?

*...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him...*Ephesians 1:4

*...share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...*2 Timothy 1:8b-9

*...and all who dwell on earth will worship [the beast], everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.* Revelation 13:8



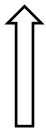
What are the implications of the truth that God loved you and set you apart for a covenant relationship with him before time began?

〔 **Predestined**- refers to God's appointing the final destiny of a person before creation. 〕

2. What is God's purpose in predestination according to verse 29?



This is the good purpose in verse 28 that God is working in our lives through every situation. Do you believe that this is your highest good? As daily troubles and hard trials come into your life, are you cooperating with the Spirit's work to make you like Jesus, or do you resist him? How could you cooperate with God's purpose for you as you just go through daily life or as you go through significant trials?



*Father, may your purpose to make me more like Jesus be my highest goal with every hardship or every blessing that comes to me.*

**Called**- Chosen or appointed by God. In Romans 8 theologians refer to it as the effectual call of God, which is the inward work of God when his call awakens a sinner from death, overcomes all resistance and makes the glory of Christ irresistibly compelling.

3. How does Paul make it plain in verse 30, that everyone who God calls actually comes to him and make it to heaven?

#### For Discussion

God's foreknowing and predestining happened in eternity past, before time began. His calling and justifying take place in the present, at a particular time and place. So then, explain why predestination doesn't make evangelism unnecessary.



This unbreakable chain of God's redemptive purposes begins with eternity past (v. 29), continues through the present (v.30) and then on into our eternal future (v.30). This future is so certain that Paul uses the past tense to describe it, even though it hasn't happened yet. If God loved you, set you apart and planned your destination before time began, if in his perfect timing, he called you to himself and made you right with him, then he will most certainly bring you all the way home to glory. There is no break in this chain, *he who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.* (1 Thes. 5:24)

- ◆ What stands out to you about God in these 2 verses?

### Picture and Ponder

Behold the glory of the Lord! See his power to transform sinners into reflections of Jesus Christ. See the sheer massiveness of his eternality, as he dwells outside time, equally present to all points of time at once, guiding your future toward your glory when you cannot even see it yet. See the ease with which he triumphs over your enemies, the world, the flesh, the devil, who are not even mentioned here. God alone is the subject of all these verbs. He stands forth as himself our sole and sufficient guarantee of eternal glory.<sup>1</sup>

### **Day 3- Romans 8:31-32**

1. In verse 31 Paul asks, *what then shall we say to these things?* He's asking how should we respond, what should we think about these things? Summarize the *these things* he is talking about from verses 28-30.
2. How does Paul's next question in verse 31, teach us to look at people and situations that are against us?

### Digging Deeper:

What does it mean for God to be *for us*? How do the following verses help you understand what it looks like for God to be for you?

*I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them...I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness with all my heart and soul. Jeremiah 32:40a, 41*

*...the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers...Deuteronomy 30:9b*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6*

*The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. Zephaniah 3:17*

*...Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today...The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent. Exodus 14:13a-14*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10*

*But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3*

### Picture and Ponder

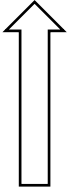
*This I know, that God is for me.*

*In God, whose word I praise,*

*in the LORD, whose word I praise,*

*in God I trust;*

*I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalm 56:9b-11*



God, how amazing that the King and Creator of all, is for me! Thank you, God, that you are delighted to be good to me, how incredible that you rejoice over me! Forgive me for ever being afraid when you are the one who is by my side.

3. In verse 32, in Paul's usual style, he asks a rhetorical question that has an obvious answer. Write out the question as a declaration and make it personal.
  - a. *God did not spare his own Son...* Think about this for a minute. What are your thoughts?

### Picture and Ponder

"God's doing the hardest thing for his people—namely, not sparing his own Son—shows that God is totally committed to all the other promises of the new covenant."<sup>2</sup>

### Digging Deeper

In verse 32 Paul states that God will graciously give us all things. Read the verses below to help you understand what the *all things* are that he is talking about.

- a. How do you think this relates with verses 29-30?

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 2 Peter 1:3-4



The *all things* we want, are to be happy, to have all the people we love be with us, to have peace and health and well-being. The *all things* God is giving us is everything we need to secure the wonderful life we long for—eternally. The journey to get there is hard, but because God did not spare even his own Son, but gave him up for us all, we can be certain that every promise he made, he will keep—*all the promises of God find their yes in Jesus* (2 Cor. 1:20)! God will provide everything we need to make it to the everlasting joy with him that we so long for.

◆ Are there promises of God that you struggle to believe? How does verse 32 alleviate any doubts you could have?

◆ Reflect on these true propositions:

“What if God, from all of eternity, has been planning a kind of pleasure so great that no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into any human imagination?

What if God sent his Son into the world with the mandate to remove every obstacle to perfect happiness and to create a people willing and able to be that happy in his presence?

What if his Son bought this all satisfying destiny for his people at the cost of his own life?

What if God sent his Spirit into the world to be the down payment of this ecstasy, and to use all his omnipotence to make sure we arrive in his presence where there are pleasures forevermore?”<sup>3</sup>

## Day 4- Romans 8:33-34

1. In verses 33-34, Paul asks two more questions: *Who dares accuse God's elect? Who will condemn us?* Why are these questions pertinent?

〔 God's **elect**- chosen, picked out; chosen by God to obtain salvation. 〕

2. In verse 33, why is Paul's response —*It is God who justifies*—the last word on charges against God's elect? (For help look back to the definition of justify.)
  
3. Paul has already assured us in verse 1, that there is *no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*. Here in verse 34, he states four aspects of Jesus' work that accomplishes this for his people. First, Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for the sin of his people. But verse 34 says there is even more than that. What three other things has Jesus done or is Jesus doing?
  - a. What do you learn about Jesus from these truths?

### Digging Deeper

We saw that the Spirit inside us intercedes for us as we pray. How is Jesus interceding for us according to the following verses?

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.* 1 John 2:1

*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail...*Luke 22:31-32a

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne*



of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

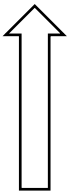
Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. Hebrews 7:25 (NLT)



When you are accused and feel condemned by Satan, yourself, or others, run to the truth displayed in these verses. Write out the responses using the NLT.

v. 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own?

v. 34 Who then will condemn us?



Thank you Jesus for paying my debt with your own life, for giving me your perfect record of righteousness, for allowing me to rest in your power and completed work and for continuing to help me become like you as you intercede for me. I thank you and praise you Jesus—you are a perfect Savior!

## Day 5- Romans 8:35-39

1. In verse 35 Paul asks the fourth *who* question: *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* He names seven intense possibilities right out of a chapter in his life. Paul is talking about the possible hardships of following Jesus. How is this a test of authentic faith?

Scholar's Note: V.36 quotes Psalm 44:22. "A willingness for martyrdom is certainly the final test of Christian faith and faithfulness. In order to enforce this the apostle quotes from a Psalm which depicts the persecution of Israel by the

nations. They were not suffering because they had forgotten Yahweh or turned to a foreign god. Instead they were suffering for Yahweh's sake, because of their very loyalty to him."<sup>4</sup>

2. Verse 37 in the NLT says that *overwhelming victory is ours...* Why is this true? Look back to verses 30-32.

- a. *...through Christ who loved us.* The word *loved* is past tense. Paul isn't saying that Jesus' love is only in the past, but what in the past shows Jesus' great love for us?

### For Discussion

Genuine Christians don't merely endure or survive hardship. Verse 37 in the ESV says that *we are more than conquerors*. What do you think is the *more than* part?

### Picture and Ponder

"Since Christ proved his love for us by *his* sufferings, so *our* sufferings cannot possibly separate us from [his love]. In the context [of Romans 8], which began with a reference to our sharing Christ's sufferings (v.17), [our suffering] 'should be seen as evidence of union with the crucified one, not a cause for doubting his love.'"<sup>5</sup>

3. Write out verses 38-39 and change all the plural pronouns to singular making it personal.

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- a. Spend some time in prayer praising and thanking God for this remarkable and comforting truth.



This whole section of Scripture speaks to us of security, assurance and God's never-ending love in the face of any kind of weakness, trial or suffering. The salvation that God began in us, he will most assuredly carry out all the way to our final glorification when we see Jesus face to face and are finally and completely conformed to his glorious likeness. Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus or stop God from finishing his saving work!

- ◆ Sometimes when we go through severe suffering or trial after trial, we feel like God doesn't love us. How do verses 38-39 speak to that feeling?
  
- ◆ What things in your life can threaten to make you feel separated from the love of Jesus?
  
- ◆ Sometimes our own doubt or sin makes us feel like God doesn't love us. What would you say to someone who is feeling that way?

### For Discussion

How does Romans 8 answer the question: can you lose your salvation?

What should we think when people turn away from faith they once professed and reject God?

### Picture and Ponder

"God's saving love for his elect is as surely without end as it was surely without beginning."<sup>6</sup>

## *One Thing:*

What is one thing from this week's study that God has impressed on your heart, or convicted you about; is there something new that you learned or is there a verse you want to ponder and meditate on?

Praise God for this and thank him for the work he is doing in your life. Ask him to help you remember this and live it out for his glory.

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<sup>1</sup> Ortlund, Ray. Supernatural Living for Natural People. Christian Focus Publications. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Piper, John. Providence p.561 Crossway, 2020

<sup>3</sup> Forward by John Piper from The Joy Project by Tony Reinke, Cruciform Press, 2018

<sup>4</sup> Stott John R.W. The Message of Romans. P. 257. Intervarsity Press USA

<sup>5</sup> Stott John R.W. The Message of Romans. P. 258. Intervarsity Press USA

<sup>6</sup> Piper, John. Providence p.561 Crossway, 2020p. 577

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