

Romans Chapter 8

- In this chapter Paul explains how God looks upon the mind and heart of the Christian who desires to serve and follow after Him. God sees his faith in Jesus Christ, He sees us in a very positive way.
- God is very much for us!

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

V: 1 Therefore... because of all these things, chapters 6 and 7 leading, building up to this truth - we are no longer under condemnation.

- “Now” there is no condemnation, meaning before there was, meaning that something has changed to a new circumstance.

John 1:17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

- That “something” that critical factor or change is the cross of Jesus our Savior.
- A condemned man is someone who is under a death sentence, awaiting his final execution.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Conviction: the Holy Spirit reveals, exposes sin in our lives – shows us that what we are doing, what we have done, or what we’re about to do is contrary to God’s Word.

- The purpose being to either prevent us from falling into sin, or to help us be restored to a right relationship with God, removing the barriers that would impede our relationship with God.
- Conviction draws us nearer to God.

Condemnation: Satan, takes the same information, after the fact and seeks to drive us away from God, separation from God is death.

- Satan tells us that our situation is hopeless, and that we may as well just give in.
- The purpose is to drive us away from God by not dealing with our sin in the appropriate manner, which is confession and restoration to God.

John 3:17 “For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

- If we are **in** (as in abiding in) Christ Jesus, born again, we are no longer under a death sentence – we’re under a life sentence.
- As such we no longer walk according to the flesh, in the things of the world – but we walk according to the Spirit – seeking to please God and to fulfill the purposes that He has willed for us.

Turn to:

John 8:1-11 Pharisee’s & woman caught in adultery – neither do I condemn you.

- **Convicted:** (G1651) elégchō; To shame, disgrace, but only in Class. Gr. In the NT, to convict, to prove one in the wrong and thus to shame him.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins to and cleanse us from all un-righteousness.”

- **Condemn:** (G2632) katakrínō; compound word: katá (2596), against, and krínō (2919), to judge. To pronounce sentence against, condemn, adjudge guilty.

“1b Who walk not after / according to the flesh, but after to the Spirit.”

(NIV, NASB, CJB and other translations based on the Alexandrian text omit this part of this verse.)

John 8:11b “neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.”

“Spirit” 19x’s (G4151) Pneuma; breath of God, Spirit. (Holy Ghost)

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then: walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

- The flesh and the Spirit are mutually exclusive, it is either one or the other.

V: 2 The Law of the Spirit & life VS: The law of sin & death.

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Colossians 1:16 “For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and for Him:”

1st just God – One sovereign, holy, infinite, God!

1. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit – absolute unity, no conflict.
 2. God created the universe, things visible and invisible.
 3. The Spiritual realm including the angelic hosts, and the physical, material universe, including man.
 4. Everything in subjection to the will of God; that is until Lucifer, an arch angel, a created being rebelled against the authority of God and sought to exalt himself above God.
 5. Now in essence there were two governments; one of God that was the government of light and life, the other, the lesser, in rebellion to God; the government of death and darkness.
 6. God created Adam, breathed life into him, Adam was alive in the Spirit – created within the government of God – living in fellowship and harmony with God.
 7. God came into the garden and communed with Adam, God spoke with Adam, God's Spirit communed with Adam's spirit.
 8. God told Adam that he had the freedom to eat anything in the garden, except the one tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 9. If you eat of it you will surely die.
 10. Satan entered the garden, tempted Eve, deceived her into eating of the forbidden tree, and Adam followed suit.
 11. Adam & Eve were created innocent, but not righteous.
 12. And so by one man, sin entered into the world, and death by sin to all men from there on.
- Romans 5:12** “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”
13. Now here is man created in the government of God, but exercising the capacity of free choice.
 14. Man left the government of God, the government of light and life, and entered into the government of death and darkness, the government of Satan.
 15. Man was now controlled and ruled by his fleshly appetites.

16. Man was now mindful of his physical needs, where before he had been oblivious to the flesh.

17. Previously man had the mind of the spirit, in fellowship and communion with God – but now that fellowship was broken.

18. Man was dead to the Spirit – alive to the flesh, subject to the law of sin and death.

19. Man was in a hopeless state, now enters in the 2nd Adam, Jesus Christ.

- Jesus set us free from the law of death.

Romans 6:18 “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants / slaves of righteousness.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

- We’re free from the power of sin, but we still have to exercise that choice:

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap live everlasting.”

V: 3 The Law is not able to save; it can reveal our sin for what it is, but that is all – it ends there.

- The Law in and of itself could not save us.
- The weakness of the Law was the flesh, because it was dependent upon man’s ability to keep the Law – which we could never do, we would always fall short.
- This is why Jesus came, in the flesh, in the likeness of the flesh.

John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- Virgin birth: no man = no sin involved.

- The gene factors that make up the blood come from the man.
- The blood that was shed for us was pure and Holy.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Jesus condemned sin in the flesh, He brought death to death. Two negatives = a positive.

V: 4 The righteous requirement of the law being fulfilled in us, but not by us. Any righteousness we have is putrid in comparison to the righteousness of God.

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

- I no longer try to attain my righteousness by observing the Law of Moses. The Law and it's righteousness is fulfilled in me, because Jesus Christ has fulfilled it for me.
- The righteous requirements of the law are fulfilled in Jesus – He fulfilled it, and if we are abiding in Him, and He in us, as we walk in the Spirit then those same requirements are fulfilled in us as well.

God is the One doing it in us:

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

V: 5-6 Those who live according to the flesh, think about and do fleshly things – which eventually leads to death. The carnal mind brings death, because it is in a losing war with God.

- We often think that living in the flesh is synonymous with committing some blatant sin. But in reality, to live in the flesh simply means to give priority to the things of the material realm.

John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

- Man is an inferior trinity: body, soul, and spirit.
- When the spirit is dead, the body, the flesh is dominant – controlling the mind.

- When the spirit is alive, the body is sent to the bottom of the list, now the spirit controls the mind. Having the mind of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Colossians 3:2 “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

- Set our minds on Christ Jesus.
- Those who live according to the Spirit, think about spiritual things, which leads to life everlasting – peace with God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; ⁵Casting down the imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”

V: 7 A carnal, a worldly mind – a worldly mindset is contrary to God, worldly thinking is in opposition to God, and to His word.

Isaiah 48:22 “There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.”

James 4:4 “... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- That is why we are warned, cautioned as to how we interact with the world:

1 John 2:15-16 “¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Romans 12:2 “And not be conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

V: 8 Those who are in the flesh, those who are not yet born of the Spirit, not born again cannot please God – cannot satisfy His righteous requirements.

- The same holds true for those who claim to be believers, yet are walking in the flesh, and not in the Spirit.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated

between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”

Psalm 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing;”

- We were created to please God: that truly is our purpose.

Revelation 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Colossians 1:16 “For by Him all things were created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: All things were created by Him and for Him.”

- Only when we are in God’s will, fulfilling the purposes that He has for us, will we be satisfied, otherwise we’re like the woman at the well – dry and thirsty, a hole in our life.

V: 9 Describing being “born-again.”

John 3:5-7 “⁵Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.”

- When we are born again of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us.

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

1 Corinthians 6:19 “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

- If the Holy Spirit is not in us, it is because we are not born again, and we have no part with Jesus.

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.”

V: 10 We reckon the old man, the old sin nature dead.

- When sin entered the world, it brought death with it.
- God said that if we ate from that tree, we would surely die – at first it was the spirit, now because of Jesus we have the ability to choose which one dies, the body or the spirit.
- When we choose to be alive in the spirit and allow the flesh to die, we put our being in the right order Spirit ^(alive), soul, body ^(dead).
- We see our sins crucified on the cross with Jesus, and ourselves as well.

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

- Youth camp / cross / sins nailed to the cross.

V: 11 When we accept Jesus we're “quickened” made alive in the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

2 Timothy 2:11 “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him.”

1 Corinthians 6:14 “And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power.”

V: 12-13 We don't owe the flesh anything. The righteous requirements have been paid, and we have been freed from the bondage of death.

- All our flesh wants to do is to kill us, nothing good has come from the flesh, we owe everything to the spirit.
- All we need to do is kill the flesh.
- We need the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish any and all of this.

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- Some of us have kind of a “Helsinki” syndrome when it comes to the flesh and sin.

V: 13 God said the same thing to Adam, and look what happened.

If you don't rule over the flesh, it will rule over you.

- I never quite thought about it this way but when God said not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.
- God was just as much saying that when you know my word and go against it, reject it, reject the word of God, you will surely die.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

- Often times we say that if we had been in Adam's shoes, we would have done differently – because now we know better – that is now our challenge.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Ephesians 4:21-24 “²¹If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

V: 14 Those who are actually led by the Spirit are the sons of God, this is speaking to Lordship - not just those who know academically what to do, but those who actually do it.

- This is describing us having the Spirit, and the Spirit having us.

1 John 1:6-7 “⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

- Sons of God: process, transformation, status.

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

Jesus said:

John 14:16-17 “¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 16:13 “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “¹⁹What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Contrast: Not all men are sons of God. **John Ch. 8:37-47**

- The Pharisees bragged that they were the descendants of Abraham, thus God’s chosen people, His elect.
- Jesus challenged that assertion, not that they were physical descendants – but that they were his spiritual descendants.
- Jesus made the distinction between His Father, God – and their father who was different.
 1. *My Word has no place in you.*
 2. You don’t do the works of Abraham – Abraham believed and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
 3. They set themselves at enmity with God, and with Jesus.
 4. They were of their father, the Devil.

Condemnation VS: Conviction. – Led by the Spirit or not.

- If we can commit willful sin without any conviction, that may be an indication that the Holy Spirit is not present in us. 😞
- If a tree is known by it’s fruit – what is our fruit?

Galatians 5:22-23 “²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

- The question is:
 - Is my life being led by the spirit of God?
 - Do I seek to know the will of God and to follow the will of God?
 - Do I seek the leading of the spirit?
- There are many who have placed their hope of salvation in things other than a relationship with Jesus, being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.
- A lot of people are not even worried about their salvation because they were baptized as an infant and they think they've got it covered.
- Or because they were circumcised on the 8th day, barmitzva'd, or were married in the temple in Utah.

“For as many are led by the Spirit of God, they are sons of God.”

V: 15 Many of the early converts were Jewish, many of those people were still trying to fulfill the requirements of the Law, from which they had been freed.

- Some said that you couldn't be saved until you first kept the law of Moses and were circumcised.

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised;”

- The early church eventually held a council determine what was really necessary:

Acts 15:8-20 turn to.. idols, strangled meat, fornication.

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

V: 16 Superior trinity / inferior trinity – fellowship can only take place in the realm of the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed the that Holy Spirit of promise.”

- Discerning fellowship with others, fellowship vs: ministry, missionary relationship.
- Different Greek words describe an adult that is adopted, but the word used here “children” of God:

Children: (G5043). Teknon; a child (as produced).

- This is what happens when we are “born” again!

John 3:5-6 “⁵Jesus answered, verily verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

V: 17 Being a child of God, makes us an heir of God – we have an inheritance.

There is a time coming when we would hear:

Matthew 25:34 “Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

- As the nation of Israel entered into the promised land, each of the tribes of Israel had an inheritance guaranteed to them from God. It was truly something to get excited about.
- To the Levites however it was different, God Himself would be their inheritance.

He is our inheritance as well:

Psalms 16:5 “The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.”

1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;”

1 Peter 1:3-4 “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”

- He is our inheritance! He is incorruptible, undefiled, and does not fade away!

“If” – we identify fully with Jesus, in association with Him.

- Identifying with Jesus in His death and His resurrection:

Romans 6:3-5 “³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,”

- Moses could have lived an easy life as a prince of Egypt, part of the royal court - but he didn't.

Hebrews 11:24-27 “²⁴By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. ²⁷By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.”

Philippians 3:7-10 “⁷But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformable unto His death.”

*“¹⁶The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if** so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together.”*

- Meaning with Him.

-
- We left off with the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we're the children of God and that part of that, being children of God, we are also heirs, joint heirs with Christ - but there is a catch - the catch is that we would also suffer with Him.

- Partaking in His sufferings.

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformable unto His death.”

V: 18 Present sufferings compared to eternal glory: having a long view of things, an eternal perspective.

Hebrews 11:24-27 “²⁴By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”

- If Moses could be here today and testify he would say “I made the right choice! For the last 3,800 years I’ve been enjoying the benefits of Heaven. I have no regrets!”

Acts 5:41-42 “⁴¹So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴²And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

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

Count the cost:

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 “²³Are they ministers of Christ? I speak as a fool – I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – ²⁸besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

- You don’t get through all of that unless you have a long / eternal view of things.

Psalms 73:1-26 looking at others, only understanding after being in the Sanctuary of God, regaining a heavenly perspective, a long view.

- Paul was a man who could testify: certainly he had suffered on earth, but he had also seen the heavenly realm.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 “²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – ⁴how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

- Having an eternal perspective on things can totally change your outlook.
- We talk about having a Biblical world view – perspective – it’s the only way we can get through our time here on earth.

2 Kings Ch. 6 Elisha & Syrian king Ben-Hadad.

- Elisha heard clearly from the Lord all the time, the Lord was always revealing things to him.
- God spoke to him so much, that he was actually surprised when God didn’t reveal something to him.
- God has spoken to me many times, He has revealed a number of things to me at different times, but not like Elisha.
- It came to pass that Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria was planning various attacks against the nation and king of Israel.
- As soon as Ben-Hadad planned an attack of some kind, Elisha would go to the king of Israel, lay the whole thing out and the plans of the Syrians were defeated.
- After 2-3 times Ben-Hadad gathered his generals and wanted to know who the traitor was, who was tipping off the king of Israel.
- One of his men told him “Oh king; Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”
- Ben-hadad sent his army with chariots and surrounded the city of Dothan where Elisha was.
- In the morning Elisha’s servant went out to chop wood, and he saw the Syrians surrounding the city and panicked.
- He ran to Elisha and cried out to him, we’re surrounded, we’re doomed.
- Elisha just spoke to God and said, Lord open his eyes that he can see.

- The servants eyes were opened and he saw what Elisha saw – that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
- The servant saw that the Syrians were the ones who were surrounded.
- He now had a different perspective, that is the perspective that we need to have.

2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

- Having a long view, an appreciation for the things of heaven which far surpass the things of earth, including what ever we might suffer for Christ.

RRV:18

V: 19 Our earnest expectation is the 2nd coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- All of creation is suffering as the result of sin, and all of creation eagerly waits for His return.

Genesis 3:14, 17-18 “¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent: because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. - ¹⁷Then to Adam He said, because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat of it: cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,”

“^{19b}Revealing the “sons of God.””

- The word used here for sons “huios” (G5207) is used only of men, not angelic creatures, so this is speaking of men, believers, sons of God.

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

V: 20 God created man for His own purposes.

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and for Your pleasure they exist and were created.”

- That purpose was that God would have a meaningful, loving relationship with His creation.
- That is why we have the capacity to choose.

- The creation or creature (KJV) referring to us was made subject to futility / vanity / emptiness.
- God created us with a spiritual emptiness or a void that only God could fulfill, which in turn would cause us to seek after Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

- Once we find Him, or He finds us and that void is filled, we are complete and whole.
- Many have looked for love in all the wrong places, sought after fulfillment in worldly pleasures only to discover that they don't satisfy.
- The moment we invite Jesus Christ to come and dwell in your heart we begin to experience the fullness that God desire us to know through Him.
- There was a time as Paul describes where that was just a hope, but for us it is a reality to be taken hold of.

V: 21 Creation, the earth will be delivered from the bondage of sin also.

Revelation 21:1 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”

- The Christian life is one of liberty, not bondage, not legalism.

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

V: 22 The whole creation groans - natural disasters, earthquakes, tornados, flooding are all on the increase.

- Nature can be awesome and beautiful, but it can also be cruel and heartless. Creation itself yearns for that time of restoration.

V: 23 No only the earth, but we ourselves as well, the redemption of these bodies of flesh. Whether it is through death or the rapture we are going to be set free from the limitations of these earthly bodies.

- We will then be free to express our worship in a limitless way.

Philippians 3:20-21 “²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly

body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

- We groan because we’ve tasted of the first fruits of the Spirit, and we long for more!
- Jesus is the first fruit of all things, but our time is coming:

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 “Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

- I’m looking forward to going to my Father’s house where He’s prepared a place for me.

John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

- Aging process motivates us for heaven and our release from these tattered and torn earthly tabernacles,

V: 24-25 In other words, we have this hope, this is what we long for.

- “*Hope*” (5x’s) (G1680) “Elpis” The desire of some good with the expectation of receiving it.
- We don’t see it yet; we’re still in these decrepit bodies

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

- One day it’s going to happen, we won’t have to wait any more.
- It is that hope that sustains us.
- Norwegian warf rats – hope:
- What is that hope?

Titus 2:13 “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing our our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

- We eagerly wait for Him with perseverance or patience.

Perseverance: (G5281) hupomone; hopeful endurance, constancy:--enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

Jesus said:

Matthew 24:42 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”

Luke 12:37 “Blessed are those servants whom the master, when He comes, will find watching...”

- We are exhorted to watching and waiting: eagerly waiting, anticipating.

James 5:7-8 “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

- Now that we’re saved, now that we’re in the boat – I’m in more of a hurry.
- I’m glad He didn’t call for the rapture in 1978 – I’d be toast.
- I want Him to come today – but He’s not willing that any should perish.

1 John 3:1-3 “¹Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”

V: 26 Where we fall short, when we reach the end of our limitations; that is where the Holy Spirit steps in and helps us.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

- The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome our ignorance in prayer.
- Our prayers are directed to God, but not intended to direct Him.
- We pray that His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
- Ex: Seeing a brother suffering through some trial, we might pray for deliverance, but we could find ourselves praying against God’s perfect will, if God was using that to deliver this brother from the old life of sin.

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12 & 14 – gifts of the Spirit.

- Word of wisdom or word of knowledge exercised in intercessory prayer.
- I don’t think that this is referring specifically to the gift of tongues. Sometimes as the Spirit prompts, we actually groan in prayer as we agonize over a situation, and in that something is communicated of our heart to God, and He hears it.

V: 27 Now He who searches the hearts.... Who is that?

Psalm 139:1-3, 23-24 “¹O Lord, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.” - “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; ²⁴And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Solomon’s prayer:

1 Kings 8:39 (2 Chron. 6:20) “then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men),”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- So the Holy Spirit knows the heart of man, and He knows the will, the mind of God - so He puts the two together, and helps us to pray as we ought as described in the previous verse.

“^{27b}...*He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*”

- He, the Holy Spirit, knows the will of God because He is God and He makes intercession through us, as we are led of the Spirit, for the saints.
- He helps us to overcome our ignorance and actually pray the will of God.

- It is a wonderful thing to know that we are praying in accordance to His will – it gives us the confidence of knowing that He hears us.

1 John 5:14 “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

V: 28 We “know” (G-1492) “eidos”; God reveals, to know by revelation.

- As a believer there are certain things that we need to know, that we need to be confident of:
 1. God is good, and He only wants what is good for us.
 2. God loves us.
 3. God’s will is perfect.
 4. God’s word is true.
- Because when difficult times come, all of these things will seemingly come into question.

Psalm 119:75 “I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.”

- When we come across things that we don’t know or understand, we have to be able to fall back onto things that we do know and understand.
 1. God is good.
 2. God loves us.
 3. God’s will is perfect.
 4. God’s word is true.
- We know that **all** things work together for good – to those who love God.
- Not to everyone – to believers to those who are the called according to his purposes.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. / “To bring you to an expected end.” KJV

- His purposes for us, the end result.

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

- When things are hard and difficult, we may not understand what is going on, we may not be able to figure it out at the time; but we know, we can trust that God will use it for good; we can take comfort in that.

V: 29 Pre-destination? This is a difficult subject because our limited human minds come face to face with the infinite mind and purposes of God.

I'm reminded of:

Isaiah 55:8-9 “⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- When you see phrases or words like “foreknew” or “predestined” your first thought might be towards the issues related Calvinism, Reformed theology, and Arminianism - issues I might add that can be argued endlessly.
- When I see these terms I am prompted to consider God’s character, specifically His omniscience, He knows all things which is why He “foreknew” and “predestined” a number of things - He knew what would happen or occur.

Moses declares:

Psalm 90:9b “... we spend our years as a tale that is told.”

- God knows in advance every thought, every word, every action that we would ever take.
- It’s noteworthy to acknowledge that here in Romans and later in Ephesians, the only two places where the word / idea of predestination is mentioned, neither talks about salvation itself, heaven, or hell - in each it’s talking about being conformed to the image of Christ.
- Understanding divine election, predestination, the sovereignty of God – and the free choice / sovereignty of man is difficult if not impossible to understand or reconcile because of the various scriptures that seem to support both sides.
- God hasn’t called us to reconcile difficult or confusing theological issues, He simply called us to believe in Him, receive Him, and to follow Him.
- I’ll can tell you what I do know:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Joshua 24:15 “Choose you this day whom you will serve...”

2 Peter 3:9 “God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

- Yet God will not in-validate our choice, by over ruling our choice.
- God chooses us, because He knows from the beginning of time that we will choose Him.
 - If we only believe what we understand, where is faith?
- The real point of this verse is that we would be conformed to the image of God's Son, that means having a new heart, a new way of thinking, being different than we were, becoming more and more like Him.

Like John the Baptist said:

John 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Becoming that new creature:

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

V: 30 Again, the word “predestined” can cause us to rush or fall into a pre-determined theological presumption regarding divine election.

Harry Ironside: “Nowhere are we told in scripture that God predestinated one man to be saved and another to be lost. Men are to be saved or lost eternally because of their attitude towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Predestination means that someday all the redeemed shall become just like the Lord Jesus.”

D.L. Moody used to put it very simply, the elect are the “whosoever wills,” the non-elect are the “whosoever won't's.” This is exactly what scripture teaches, the invitation is to all, those who accept it are the elect. We're never told that Christ died for the “elect.”

- The “predestined” refers to those who are saved, whom God called - those who are saved, called of God, then He justified, made righteous by the blood of Jesus - and these one day will be glorified. Amen!

Key words:

“Predestined / saved” - (G4309) “pro-orizo” To determine or decree beforehand. (Syn: “ordained.”) Those who are saved are “predestined” to become like Jesus, being conformed to His image.

It's still by faith.

Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

- It's still because He initiated it:

1 John 4:19 "We love Him, because He first loved us."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His love in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

"Called" (G-2564) "Kaleo" – to call someone that he may come or go somewhere; particularly with a voice as a shepherd calls his flock.

Matthew 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

2 Peter 3:9 "For God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

"Justified"

Galatians 2:16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in / of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in / of Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."

"Glorified"

This is the answer to Jesus' prayer:

John 17:22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:"

Ephesians 3:16-19 "16that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – 19to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

You may be thinking - "I'm not really feeling it, or seeing it."

Philippians 1:6 "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

- Notice that this is all in the past tense to God even though parts of it have yet to happen in our lives. God is the only one who can talk about future things in the past tense because He's the only One who has already seen it in His minds eye.

V: 31 What do we say to these things? *Thank you Jesus!*

- Since God is for us; which He demonstrated and proved in sacrificing His son on our behalf, there should never be any doubt that God is for us!
- Acknowledging that if or since God is obviously for us, who can be against us?
- Who can be against us: Satan for one, the world, the flesh.

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2 Chronicles 14 & 15 King Asa, Judah – invaded by an army of a million Ethiopians, and 300 chariots.

2 Chronicles 14:11 "And Asa cried out to God "Lord, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Lord our God, for we rest in You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

1 Samuel 14:6 "Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the Lord will work for us. For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few."

- Caveat: The hard part is not taking it for granted.

2 Chronicles 15:1-2 "Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Obed. ²And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

V: 32 There seems to be either an un-recorded question which Paul seeks to answer or perhaps an attempt to reinforce the fact that God is for us by further describing God's incredible love for us.

- The word "spared" (G-5339) "pheidomai" is the same Greek word used in the Septuagint translation of the OT in Genesis 22:12.

Genesis 22:12 "And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

- Paul moves from the greater to the lesser, He's met our greatest need, what lesser thing would He deny us?

1 Peter 1:18-19 "¹⁸Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

- Almost as is to say that if He's given us this much, so much more than we could ever imagine in Jesus - what other good thing would He withhold?

How do I know that God is for me?

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

- God is so for me, for us, that He wouldn't even hold back His own Son.
- He sent His Son to die on the cross for us – what more could He do?

John 15:13 "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friend."

- Having given us His Son, what would He or could He deny us anything? He has freely given us all things.
- This is not a promise of material wealth or comfort; but of something better, something deeper.

2 Peter 1:2-3 "²Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."

2 Corinthians 6:10 “as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

V: 33 Who is it that brings charges against God’s elect? It isn’t God, He sent Jesus in response to those charges.

Psalm 32:2 “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
²Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.”

- Ours is a blessing God, a forgiving God – not a condemning God.

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 3:17 “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

“It is God who justifies!” He declares us as righteous! Just as if it never happened.

V: 34 Who is he who condemns? It isn’t Christ, He came to pay the price, He came to do the opposite.

John 3:17 “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Mark 16:19 “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.”

As Steven was being stoned:

Acts 7:56 he “... said, look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

Colossians 3:1 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”

Hebrews 1:3 “Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Hebrews 8:1 “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,”

Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Speaking of Jesus

1 Peter 3:22 “who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”

- So, where is Jesus today? At the right hand of God the Father. What is He doing? According to our text, He is "interceding" on our behalf.

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;”

- We’ve got double coverage!
Romans 8:26-27

- Jesus died for our sins, and rose again that we might have a living hope, and has since been interceding on our behalf – so He’s not the one who condemns.
- The question still stands, “*who is he who condemns?*” Who is he who accuses?

- If it isn’t Jesus then we look at option #2.
- **Satan:** (G4567). Satanas, sat-an-as'; the accuser, i.e. the devil:--Satan.

Revelation 12:9-10 “9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...” - ¹⁰ ... for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

- Hebrew: Abaddon; Greek: Apollyon = destroyer
- Satan: (H7854). satan, an opponent: the arch-enemy of good; adversary, withstand.
- So Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father, interceding on our behalf.
- The enemy used to bring his accusations to God (past tense), but since Jesus died on the cross and paid the price for all our sins he’s been cast out of heaven and is no longer able to accuse us to the Father, so he accuses us directly but, not to God.

John 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”

- “*Judgment of this world:*” Jesus is speaking about how all of our sins, the sins of the world are about to be judged on the cross, the time is now just as the prophet said:

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own; way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

- Now the ruler of this world will be cast out. Cast out from where? Earth? No, he’s still busy here.
- Cast out from Heaven, because the sins are paid for, no need to hear the charges anymore?
- Job – access to heaven: No more accusations in Heaven.

Isaiah 14:12-16 “¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. ¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;”

Luke 10:18 “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”

Revelation 12:9-10 “⁹And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

- If we sense condemnation it is not coming from the Lord – and we’re not to give ear to the enemy.

- There is a big difference between condemnation and the Holy Spirit convicting us of our sin.
- Convictions draws us near to God, we can't wait to confess our sins, deal with it by asking forgiveness and repenting of it and being reconciled to God and His purposes.
- Condemnation is from the enemy and is intended to drive us from the Lord.

V: 35 The question is “*who*” will separate us from the love of God, not “what”?

- We know who is trying from the previous verse.
- The list is of some “what’s” that the “who” has at his disposal.

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Matthew 5:10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

2 Timothy 3:10-12 “¹⁰But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹²Yes, and all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

- Persecution always makes the church stronger, more vibrant, more dependent on Jesus, so the enemy hasn't been very successful there.
- The old saying goes that if you can't beat em, join em. This is where the enemy has had great success, joining the church and bringing compromise, strife, dissension, and deceit with him.
- When you examine the church in Egypt or China and compare it to the western world, like in America you see the vast difference generally.

James 4:4 “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

V: 36 Paul quotes from **Psalm 44:22**

V: 37 In spirit of that, in that weakened place, from the position of humility and powerlessness, we are the beneficiary's of a pre-determined outcome, we are victorious in Christ Jesus.

- We already have the victory!

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 “⁵⁴So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵O Death, where is your sting? O Hades where is your victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

V: 38-39 An impressive list, but none of it can separate us from the Love of our Lord.

- Neither death nor life: Physical death, and nothing in this life can separate us from the love of God.
- Nor angels; I can't imagine God's angels attempting to separate us from God which means that the demonic beings, fallen angels, principalities, and evil powers cannot separate us from the love of God.
- We may be at war with them in one respect, but they are already defeated and powerless in God's eyes.
- Nothing in our present circumstances, no matter how dire - and nothing in our future will be able to separate us from the love of God.
- No heights, no depth - no extreme, no created thing, that pretty much covers it all - nothing can separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Fanny Crosby:

*“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Jesus said:

Matthew 28:20b “... lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

Ref.Romans.08