

Romans 8b

The Love of God and Our Glorious Future



A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over a large body of water. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection across the water's surface. The sky is a mix of deep blue, orange, and yellow, with wispy clouds catching the low light. The water in the foreground is dark blue with small, rhythmic ripples.

Glory Revealed

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible Gods and Goddesses. To remember that the dullest, and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship.

C. S. Lewis

Opening Questions

- Is the Christians suffering in this life expected and useful?
- What is the Christian hoping for, and how do we know the hope is well-founded?
- How do we know God really loves us when we're going through hardship?"

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Q: (v18) What suffering is Paul talking about?

- [Sufferings of Paul](#)

Q: (v18) What glory will be revealed in us?

- This glory is already "in" us. It's just going to be uncovered
- Our Christ-likeness will be on full display - Colossians 3:4

Q: (v21) Is it only us who groan for our revealing?

- The creation groans as well

Q: (v22) How is it groaning?

- With birth pangs, like a woman in labor

Q: (v23) What are the firstfruits of the Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is the proof, or down payment, on eternal glory (Eph 1:14)

Q: (v24) Is hope for this revealing bad?

- Salvation is already ours, however our full enjoyment of it will be experienced in the future

Q: (v25) What are we doing while we wait for this revealing?

- Walking in the Spirit with perseverance

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Q: (v26) Is it only creation groaning?

- The Spirit groans as well

Q: (v26) In what way is the Spirit helping in our weakness?

- Prayer
- Teaching (John 14:26)
- Illuminating who Jesus is (John 15:26)

Q: (v27) How?

- God the Father knows what the Spirit thinks, without words
- According to the will of God

Q: (v28) How are all things worked together?

- The tone of this verse links it to verse 27
- The Holy Spirit (God) works **ALL** of the affairs of our lives, good and bad, to the benefit of Christians, those who love God

Q: (v28) Why?

- Christians are called according to **His** purpose

Q: (v29) How are we conformed to the image of Jesus?

- God achieves this conforming in cooperation with us, though we were predestined for it

Q: (v29) For what reason?

- Adoption into the family of God – 8:15

Q: (v30) Is it possible for this process to fail?

- Through the power of God the “true” Christian will be upheld

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q: (v31-32) What's the conclusion?

- If you are in Christ Jesus, God is for you
- He gave His most loved and prized Son to be crucified on our behalf
- Why would He stop at anything else for our behalf?

Q: (v33) Who can prove our un-justness in the future?

- The highest Judge, God has found us not guilty
- Christ, by sitting at the right hand is God, is our stand-in
- Paying our fine and declaring us not-guilty

Q: (v35) Paul uses himself as an example. Does this apply to all Christians?

- Yes, as demonstrated in Psalm 44:22

Q: (v37) What is “more than a conqueror?”

- It means to conquer completely, without need

Q: (v38-39) What's the conclusion?

- No evil thing, evil leader, anything in space, now or in the future can separate us from the love of God



The Believers Future

- We will be transformed into the image of Christ
- We will know God personally face to face, like Adam
- We will have eternal life
- We will live on the new heaven and the new earth in glorified bodies
- We will reign and rule with God forever
- We will worship and be intimately wed to God forever!

Next Up

Romans 9 - Israel



2 Corinthians 11:22-28 - The Sufferings of Paul

24 From the Jews five times I received **forty stripes minus one**.

25 Three 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**; 26 in 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; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my **deep concern for all the churches**.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?





Romans Theme

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." – Rom 1:16-17

The Christian's Riches

1 Corinthians/ 2: Isa 64/65 - Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered the heart of man, The things which God has prepared for those who love Him

John 3:16 - Life that will never end

John 4:14 - A spring of spiritual water that will never dry up

John 6: 37, 39 - A gift that will never be lost

Romans 8: 39 - a love from which he can never be separated

Romans 11: 29 - a calling that will never be revoked

2 Timothy 2: 19 - a foundation that will never be destroyed

1 Peter 1: 4- 5 - An inheritance that will never diminish