



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Love!

Romans 8:28-39

Message #18 of 33 – S1146

Sermon given on April 6, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Love!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 8**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Love!**
 - We begin with a verse is so familiar that sometimes people will just quote the reference and not the verse itself.
 - **Romans 8:28**
 - The first thing we should note about this verse is that it is for believers only – for those who love God.
 - You cannot love God until He has poured His love into your heart.
 - That happens after you put your faith in Christ.
 - The next important thing to note is that this verse does not promise everything will turn out okay in this life.
 - God's purpose or plan is eternal.
 - The good that God is working is eternal good.
 - We may or may not experience that good in this life, but we will experience it in eternity.
 - Paul tells us that we were chosen, or summoned, by God into faith.
 - '...according to His purpose.' God has a plan for your life.
 - That plan is laid out in verses 29 and 30.
 - **Romans 8:29-30**
 - One of the things we have seen in our study of Romans is that salvation is a work of God.
 - Before God saved us, we were helpless and lost with no hope of ever seeing God.
 - He foreknew... - God selected you in advance. **Ephesians 1:3-4**
- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in**

Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...

- Even before He created the world, God chose you to be one of His Children.
- And notice that verse in Ephesians says our response should be love.
- He also predestined...to be conformed... - God decided to work in you to make you like Jesus.
- He called... God invited you to receive Christ.
- He Justified... - He declared you righteous through faith in Christ.
- He glorified... - Glorified is in the past tense.
- Before God chose you in eternity past, He planned to glorify you in eternity future.
- Even though we don't experience the glory of God right now, it is certain because God planned it to be so.
- All that to say, the moment God chose you in eternity past, your eternity future was written in heaven as a present reality.
- And notice, God did all the work.
- In the meantime, we are 'eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.'
- Everything that comes into this life is preparing us for the glory of heaven – that is the eternal good that all things work out into.
- We might struggle to find the good in this life.
- Terminal cancer or a tragic accident or being a victim of a violent crime might make it exceedingly hard to find the good.
- But even in those terrible things, good can be experienced by trusting in God and believing in His gracious Word.
- **Romans 8:31**
- The 'these things' are the sufferings and difficulties of living in a fallen world. How do we stand in the face of those things?
- We stand in the reality that if God is for us, which He is because He saved us and is preparing to glorify us, then nothing this fallen world can throw at us can prevent us from achieving God's goal or plan.
- Paul goes on to give three reasons why we can trust that God is for us.
- **Romans 8:32**

- First reason we can trust God is for us is that He sent His Son to die for us.
- If we are saved, predestined to be conformed to the image of God's own Son, it would be strange for God to withhold anything we might need to live a Christ-like life. **1 Peter 1:2-3a**

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, ³ as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness...

- We have everything we need to live for Christ.
- We need only apprehend what God has given us.
- If God gave us the unsurpassable gift of His Son, then there is no way He won't give us freely anything else we need.
- **Romans 8:33-34**
- The second reason we know God is for us is because all accusations or condemnations against us must go through God.
- If someone tries to accuse us or bring charges against us before God, His response is, 'I declared them righteous.'
- Not only that, that accusation must be brought in the presence Christ who died for my sins and still bears the marks of His sacrifice on His body.
- His resurrection on the third day proves that God accepted His sacrifice on my behalf.
- Verse 28 said there is no condemnation, because all my sins have been forgiven by faith in the finished work of Christ.
- The third reason we can trust God is for us is nothing can separate us from His love.
- **Romans 8:35-36**
- Paul was very well acquainted with suffering and difficult things happening in his life.
- The hard things we experience in this life have happened to countless millions for millennia.
- There are some who question whether God loves them or not in times of loss or tragedy.
- Christ's love is as eternal as He is.

- He loved us before the foundation of the world and nothing in the universe can change how much He loves us.
- The result of those three things is victory over this fallen world.
- **Romans 8:37**
- ‘more than conquerors’ = super conquerors.
- Paul, in chapter seven described the very real battle all Christ-followers fight with sin.
- He ended the chapter with a desperate cry to God, ‘O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?’
- He followed that cry with an exclamation of joy, ‘I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!’
- Chapter eight is a declaration of the victory every believer can experience through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.
- The victory is not our victory, it is the victory of Christ.
- When Jesus died, sin was defeated.
- When He rose from the grave, He defeated death.
- When He ascended back to heaven, Jesus took the place of victory at the right hand of God the Father.
- Through faith in Christ, His victory is our victory.
- We don’t fight to be victorious.
- Our responsibility is to stand in Christ’s victory. **Ephesians 6:12-13**
For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- By faith we put on the armor of faith and stand in the victory of Christ.
- The final reward for standing in victory as super conquerors is heaven.
- **Romans 8:38-39**
- There is nothing in the universe that can get God to stop loving me.
- That includes me. There is nothing I do or don’t do that will change God’s love for me.
- Because of God’s love, everything that happens in my life, whether good or bad, God is going to use it for a glorious good.

- He will do that because He chose me (and you) before the foundation of the world to be one of His children, He called you, saved you, He predestined you to be like His Son, He justified you, and He glorified you.
- God didn't create you just to be here, to live and then to die.
- He created you on purpose and with a purpose.
- God looks down from heaven and says you are one of His.
- He is with you. The whole world might line up against you, but they can't stand against you if God is for you.
- We know God is for us because He sent His Son to die for us.
- Even if others condemn or accuse us, God declares us to be righteous because of our faith in Christ.
- And His love for us is greater than the universe and anything or anyone in it.
- The Bible is true, all of it. That means verses 37 to 39 are true.
- When Paul said 'we are more the conquerors' he was referring to every Christ-follower.
- The question we need to answer for ourselves is if we are manifesting the victorious life Christ's love gives us?
- Let's read the last few verses again.
- **Romans 8:37-39**
- Paul says, 'I am persuaded...'
- This is the key to radical overcoming faith.
- Are you persuaded, or are you convinced of God's amazing love for you.
- Paul was persuaded, convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt of God's love.
- That's why he could stand in verse 37 as a super conqueror.
- How do we become persuaded of the love of God which is in Christ Jesus?
- First, it is a matter of faith. The Bible tells us of God's love.
- So, the better you know God's Word and believe what it says, the more convinced you will become of God's love.
- God loves you – the Bible says so – believe it!

- Second, receive God’s love from God’s people.
- One of the most powerful ways we learn about God’s love is when we let God’s people love us. **John 13:34-35**
A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.
- This is not just about feelings of love for one another but about love that is expressed through good works.
- When Jesus says ‘one another’ He was speaking to Christians about how Christians should treat each other.
- Third, give God’s love to others.
- Christianity can be summarized with one word – love.
- God loves us, He calls us to love one another, and then He tells us share His love those who don’t know Him. **Matthew 22:36-40**
“Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second *is* like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- Paul was an apostle of Christ Jesus.
- He had been called and appointed by God to take the gospel message where the name of Christ was not known.
- He didn’t do it just because God told him to.
- He did it because he was convinced of God’s amazing love.
- He was compelled to share the gospel because God’s love was not just for Paul, it was everyone who had been made on the image of God.
- You are here on this earth because God loves you.
- Christ Jesus saved you from your sins so that you could experience His love.
- He has left you here on this earth so that you can share His love with others.
- It is God’s love at work in us that makes us more than conquerors in this fallen world.
- It is a simple message – love God, love others, and stand in the victory Christ won on the cross.
- **Pray! Last Song!**