

Romans 8 - Victory for the Believer

- **CONTEXT** => Believers **THEME** => Believers getting victory over sin
 - Continues the line of thought just covered in chapter 7 (2 natures in the life of a believer)
 - It summarizes and re-emphasizes the doctrines of salvation
 - Gives believers some of the greatest promises in the Bible about eternal security (vv. 28-39)
 - Deals with Christians living out a sanctified life (being set apart by God for God's purposes)
 - Chapter 8 has nothing to do with an unbeliever getting saved or the false doctrine of working to stay saved
- v. 1 - Clarify definition of "condemnation" and how it relates to us **as believers**.
- Examples of "eternal condemnation or damnation in hell" - John 3:15-18; 5:24
 - Nearly all the new **perversions** of the Bible delete the last 10-word phrase from this verse, (which are the same 10 words used at the end of v. 4). WHY? They don't understand it. This verse is NOT POSITIONAL, but deals with a believer's walk.
 - The key to understanding v.1 is to compare it to v. 4, which has the same 10 word ending: Believers **can have** "the righteousness of the law" "fulfilled in us" (v. 4) **right now** and avoid the chastening of God [believer's condemnation] **now** (v. 1) and loss of reward **later**.
 - All true believers are "**in Christ**" and there is no eternal condemnation to us **no matter how a believer walks...spiritually or fleshly**, because a believer's salvation is **not** based on good works, lifestyle, behavior, or conduct.
 - Examples of condemnation that comes upon carnal (1 Cor. 3:1-4) believers: Chastisement -Ps. 89:32; Heb. 12:6; Consequences - Gal. 6:7-8; Premature death - Eccl. 7:17; Rom. 8:6, 13; 1 Cor. 5:1-5
 - Self-condemnation by what he allows in his life - Rom. 14:22-23; 1 Cor. 11:28-34
 - A believer's condemnation due to carnality affects the believer's life and testimony right now **and** also later when the believer suffers eternal losses of reward at the judgment seat of Christ. - 1 Cor. 3:11-15
 - Believers can and do experience **temporal** condemnation, **but not eternal condemnation**. A carnal believer's condemnation is his chastisement, consequences, and sure results of yielding to the "law of sin" (7:23) - Gal. 6:7-8 (Give several examples)
 - This verse is **NOT** saying a believer **MUST** walk in the spirit or else he'll be eternally condemned with the lost, just that there are sure consequences and sure reaping for believers who live carnally.

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v. 2 - Spiritual law of life in Christ Jesus that applies **automatically** to all believers (3 parts).

1. **New Birth** - Holy Spirit enters the body of the new believer and resurrects the dead spirit and brings new life to a new man. - 1 Cor. 6:19-20
 2. **Spirit Baptism by the Holy Spirit** - The Holy Spirit places (Spirit baptism) and seals the new believer spiritually into the Body of Christ. - 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:21-22
 3. **Spiritual Circumcision** - The Holy Spirit cuts the new and alive spirit and soul from the old fleshly body of sin. - Col. 2:10-13
- The result is that it makes believers ***spiritually*** “free from the law of sin and death” and no longer dead in trespasses and sins. - Eph. 2:1
 - When a believer gets saved, he is forever free from **the penalty** of eternal condemnation for breaking God’s Law. - John 3:18
 - However, the **law of sin and death** continues temporarily in our bodies as long as we still reside in our existing bodies of flesh.

v. 3 - God did for us through Jesus Christ what we are unable to accomplish on our own.

- The weak link in God’s Law is ***neither*** God as the Giver of the Law, ***nor*** the Law itself, it is us sinners, who are “weak through the flesh” who are unable to keep it! - Matt. 26:41b “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- God sent “his only begotten son” in the “likeness of sinful flesh” but without sin. - Phil 2:7-8; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:21-22; Gen. 18:25; Job 34:10, 12; John 8:45-46
- God’s power can give us victory, just like it did for Jesus. - 2 Cor. 13:4
- Jesus Christ “condemned sin in the flesh” by preaching against sin and that you don’t have to live in sin. Man is completely without excuse for the sin in his life. - Gal. 5:24-26
- Jesus did not come into this world to condemn people (John 3:17) but came that the whole world might be saved. - 1 Tim. 1:15
- Jesus, as a sinless man, has already paid in full for all sins of the entire world. - Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim. 2:4-6; 1 John 2:2 (No “limited atonement” of the Calvinists)
- Lost sinners do not go to hell because of all of their sins against God’s Law, those have already been paid for in full by Jesus Christ, the lost go to hell for rejecting the payment Jesus made for these sins at the cross of Calvary, i.e. the worst sin of all => **UNBELIEF, i.e. REJECTING JESUS CHRIST**. - John 16:8-9; Acts 20:21; Rev. 20:10-15
- We cannot somehow fix ourselves up (reform ourselves) and make ourselves right before God. - Ps. 39:5, 62:9; Rom. 4:5, 5:6, 10:3-4; Isa. 64:6

v. 4 - The righteousness of God’s Law can be fulfilled **IN** every believer.

- This verse **goes beyond** the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ that gives us our spiritual and positional righteousness before God.

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- It comes when we surrender and yield our daily lives to the control of the Holy Spirit, so that the righteousness of God's Law on our inside is reflected on the outside in the way we live. - Rom. 6:11-19
 - The Lord Jesus wants believers to live out His righteous life in our daily lives. - Eph. 2:10; Tit. 3:7-8, 14; Phil. 2:12; 1 Thess. 2:13
- v. 5 - The believer's spirit and his flesh are in constant conflict. - Gal. 5:17
- The physical birth of our sinful fleshly body causes us to "mind the things of the flesh" as long as we are in these bodies.
 - The new spiritual birth also causes us mind the things "after the Spirit" which was placed within the believer upon getting saved.
 - No believer can serve two masters at the same time. - Luke 16:13; Rom. 6:16
- v. 6 - The war for the believer's mind.
- For the believer to live carnally, this brings about a believer's condemnation (discussed earlier in v.1) and can even shorten your life. - Ps. 102:23; Prov. 10:27; Eccl. 7:17; 1 Tim. 5:6
 - When believers are spiritually minded, they have "life and peace". This means a life filled with purpose, meaning, satisfaction, joy, and also the peace **OF** God.- Prov. 9:11; Phil 4:4-9; Ps. 119:165; Col. 3:15
- v. 7 - A carnal believer makes himself the enemy of God.
- Here is one of the three great enemies of every Christian => the flesh (the carnal mind). The other two are the world (James 4:4) and the Devil (1 Peter 5:8)
 - Due to the carnality within the church, many believers today are enemies and traitors of God, (though saved). Worldly entertainment, music, magazines, amusements, the god of pleasure, immodest dress, TV programs, running with the wrong crowd, humanism and self-esteem, failure to witness, failure to study the Bible, failure to pray, and failure to be faithful and support the church.
 - Many believers have a **ME FIRST** attitude in all that they do! - Phil. 2:3
 - The result is a loss of peace - v. 6, wisdom, knowledge, and joy - Eccl. 2:26, fellowship with and the ability to please God - v.8
 - This guarantees the carnal believer will live a life that is miserable, **BY GOD'S DESIGN!**
- v. 8 - Any person who lives "in the flesh" (lost or saved) cannot please God.
- To please God, a person must first trust Jesus Christ as Saviour and then yield to the Holy Spirit's control of and will for our lives. - 1 Thess. 4:1-7
 - Baseball player example: Step 1 is to be on the team (get saved), then contribute with good works!

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v. 9 - Contrasts with v. 8 "But ye are not in the flesh".

- Positionally, no believer is "in the flesh". Spiritually, a believer has been circumcised out of the flesh when he was buried with Christ into His death. - Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12
- Salvation is not only the Holy Spirit putting and sealing the believer into the Body of Christ, but also **indwelling** (permanently residing/living) in the believer's body. - Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19-20; Eph. 3:17, 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 1 John 4:13
- The **indwelling** of the Holy Spirit happens immediately upon being regenerated AT SALVATION. - 2 Cor. 1:21-22
- However, there are many **fillings** of the Holy Spirit. - Acts 4:31; Acts 13:52; Eph. 5:18
- EVERY BELIEVER is "in the Spirit", (the source of eternal life) or else he isn't saved at all! - Gal. 3:26; Rom. 8:16
- All believers need to be able to **discern between** the Holy Spirit and the flesh, something the Charismatics and many others church people cannot do, e.g. music, theology, and worship.

v. 10 - God's viewpoint → **Unsaved**: Dead spirit in a live body. **Saved**: Live spirit in a dead body.

- The believer's outward body of flesh is dying because of sin, but positionally it was crucified with Christ on the cross and was buried and resurrected with Him. - Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:14-15
- The Holy Spirit is the believer's source of life because He brought to us **the gift of the righteousness** of Jesus Christ and **unity** with Jesus Christ. - Rom. 5:17; 1 Cor. 6:15-17
- Jesus Christ makes the believer perfectly righteous before God. - 2 Cor. 5:21

v. 11 - God will do for the believer (bodily) what He did for Jesus.. - Rom. 6:5; 1 Cor. 15:45-50

- Someday the believer's new body will be just like Jesus Christ's glorified body. - Ps. 17:15; Eph. 1:19-23; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2
- This will occur at the rapture of the church. - 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-58

v. 12 - The believer's debt (duty & responsibility) is to live and walk after the Spirit of God.

- We owe our whole life to the Holy Spirit, we owe our flesh NOTHING!
- All believers owe a debt that is never fully paid to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to every creature through 1) a ministry of reconciliation and 2) a ministry of the word to new believers. - Rom. 1:14-16; 2 Cor. 5:18-20

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- v. 13 - Living after the flesh contrasted with living after the Spirit.
- Believers living after the flesh are guaranteed to experience the believer's condemnation we discussed in 8:1, i.e. chastisement from God, loss of rewards, and sometimes a shortened physical life.
 - Sins unto death include → living after the flesh - v.13; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; taking the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner (practically) - 1 Cor. 11:20-34; serving sin - Rom. 6:16; disobedience to God (Uzzah) - 2 Sam. 6:6-11; hypocrisy and lying to God (Ananias and Sapphira) - Acts 5:1-11; not giving God the glory (Herod) - Acts 12:20-23; ruling in an evil manner in the eyes of God (Jehoram) - 2 Chron. 21:5-20; not keeping an oath of the Lord (Shemei) - 1 Kings 2:36-46
 - If we bring our bodies into subjection to the Holy Spirit, we will have purpose and success in this life. - 1 Cor. 9:27; 1 Cor. 15:31; Rom. 6:17-18; Joshua 1:8
 - Living after the Spirit gives us abundant life RIGHT NOW. - John 10:10; 2 Cor. 8:9
 - As believers, we must "mortify the deeds of the body". - Col. 3:5-10
 - This is not to be an attempt to show other people outwardly how spiritual you are.
- v. 14 - The Holy Spirit guarantees believers **are** and shall ever **remain** "the sons of God".
- Besides here in v. 14, other NT verses containing "the sons of God": John 1:12; Rom. 8:19; Phil 2:15; 1 John 3:1-2 (NOTE: All Positional)
 - Verse 14 IS NOT saying that a person must be walking in obedience to the Spirit of God in order to be a Christian, in the sense of a sheep obeying a shepherd.
 - NO VERSE in the Bible can be correctly interpreted for the people living in the church age as "works for salvation".
 - It IS saying that the Spirit of God AUTOMATICALLY leads all believers by taking us home to heaven, i.e. the believer's eternal destination in heaven is fixed and eternally secure.
- v. 15 - Law equals bondage and the fear of going to hell. - Gal. 4:1-7
- Hagar, the bondwoman, represents the covenant of the Law, and thus bondage. - Gal. 4:22-25
 - Believing on Jesus Christ frees us from the bondage and penalty of the Law. - Gal 5:1
 - When a person trusts any form of good works or attempts to keep God's Law in order to be saved, he/she will have nothing but bondage and the fear of going to hell when he/she dies.
 - There is NO ASSURANCE OF SALVATION when our salvation depends on anything other than believing on Jesus Christ and in Him alone. - Acts 16:30-31
 - True believers have **NO FEAR** of going to hell. - John 3:36; 5:24
 - "Spirit of adoption" - God legally giving all believers the position of being His child forever.

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- Under US law, natural born children can be disowned or disinherited, but you **CANNOT** disown, or disinherit an adopted child. In the same way, every believer has been purchased by Jesus' blood and is eternally secure. - Eph. 1:4
 - Eternal life is available to whosoever will believe on Jesus Christ. - John 3:16
 - Disobedient believers **will be chastened** by God but are never disowned and cast into hell. - Heb. 12:5-8
 - When a believer falls into sin, **he falls in Christ but never out of Christ.**
 - "Abba", the Hebrew word for father, is an intimate term comparable to using an informal personal name "dad or daddy" while "Father" is a formal term.
 - "Abba" represents the closeness that God wants with His children. - Mark 14:36
- v. 16 - The witness of the Holy Spirit. - 1 John 3:24; 5:4-13 **NOTE:** "itself" (neuter) refers to the **work** of the Holy Spirit to testify - cf. 1 Pet. 1:11
- Believers have 2 spirits: 1) the human spirit that all men possess, and 2) the Holy Spirit of God which indwells only believers. - 1 Cor. 6:15-17
 - The Holy Spirit communicates with the believer's human spirit to provide the assurance that we are saved "children of God". - Gal. 3:26; 1 Thess. 1:5 "in much assurance".
 - The Holy Spirit testifies as to the **person** of Jesus Christ-1 John 4:1-3; the **presence** of Jesus Christ-1 John 5:9-12, and the **work** of Christ-1 John 4:10-15; (as revealed in the scriptures).
 - All believers have an unction and an anointing from God - 1 John 2:20, 27
 - Three things will cause a person to doubt they are saved:
 1. Depending on anything other than faith in Jesus Christ **alone** for salvation.
 2. Living in willful sin (which strengthens your old nature and weakens your new nature).
 3. Depending on your feelings rather than the facts and promises of God in the scriptures.
- v. 17 - Believers are "heirs of God" and "joint heirs with Christ". - Gal. 4:7
- **Heirs of God** - Believers are automatically and eternally saved and have an inheritance in heavenly places. - Eph. 1:3, 16-23; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 1 Pet. 1:3-4
 - Jesus Christ is heir of **all things** - Heb. 1:2; John 3:35-36 (Review Rom. 4:14-15)
 - **Joint heirs with Christ** - Believers **MAY** enjoy an **earned** reward of being glorified together with Jesus Christ, **BUT IS CONDITIONED** upon our suffering with him. - 2 Tim. 3:12
 - How did Jesus Christ suffer? - Matt. 26:67-68, 27:27-31; Isaiah 52:14; Phil. 2:7-8
 - Since none of us has suffered like Jesus Christ suffered (yet), how will any of us ever be able to reign with Him?
 1. By putting off the old man and his deeds and putting on the new man and then faithfully living for and serving the Lord Jesus Christ - Col. 3:5-25

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- 2. Enduring fiery trials, e.g. such as being reproached for the name of Jesus Christ or any persecution that comes from being a Christian. - 1 Peter 4:12-16; Heb. 13:13
 - 3. Suffering for doing well and for righteousness sake. - 1 Peter 2:20; 3:14-17
 - Example of the loss of a believer's earned inheritance. - Eph. 5:1-7; 2 John 8
 - So, all **believers** automatically have salvation as an heir of God, but our salvation will be ***either with or without*** the reward of the eternal glory. - 2 Tim. 2:10-12 (inheritance denied)
- v. 18 - Present sufferings compared with the glory to be revealed. - 1 Cor. 2:9-10
- v. 17 includes all sufferings that come as a result of being a Christian, i.e. sufferings for 1) Jesus' sake and 2) righteousness sake - 1 Pet. 4:12-16
 - Present sufferings are light and temporary, but the glory with Jesus is exceeding and eternal! - 2 Cor. 4:16-18
 - It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus, life's trials and sufferings will seem as nothing when we see Christ!
 - Why is our faith tried through suffering and persecution? - 1 Peter 1:7; Heb. 5:8
 - Believers should live **right now for the next life**, not this one! Believers should remind ourselves we are "**strangers and pilgrims**", only on this earth for a little while. - 1 Peter 2:11; Ps. 119:19; Heb. 11:13
 - This means all believers should constantly be soul conscious and soul winners, staying in the Bible, living with the judgment seat of Christ always in mind, setting our affections on things above and not on things on the earth, laying up treasures in heaven, and doing something for God at every opportunity. - Matt. 6:19-21; Col. 3:1-2
- vv. 19-25 - Discussion of the inheritance that awaits all believers, we call it **glorification** (after our justification and sanctification).
- v. 19 - The earnest expectation => having the curse of sin lifted.
- In vv. 19-21, "creature" refers to the curse on nature and every animal creature, which was brought about by Adam's sin. - Gen. 3:14-20
 - "manifestation of the sons of God" => At the Rapture, the Lord will lift the curse of sin that is presently upon all believers and change every believer's body into a glorified body that is like Jesus' resurrection body. - Phil. 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2
 - The believer's glorified body is going to **live eternally in Heaven without sin**.
 - At the 2nd Advent (second coming of Christ), all of creation will be restored and the glorified bodies of all believers will be revealed to the entire world. - 2 Thess. 1:10; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 4:12-13; 5:1
- v. 20 - All of nature is under a death sentence because of Adam's sin.
- The curse of Adam's sin caused the curse on all of nature and creatures, including the animals at the same time.

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- The creatures (other than man) had no part in the curse placed on them due to man's sin.
 - Why did God curse the animals? To ESTABLISH HOPE, i.e. a hope in a future glory that faith sees and is confident is going to occur. (more on hope - vv. 24-25)
- v. 21 - Deliverance from bondage of corruption.
- All of nature, including the animal kingdom, eagerly awaits the sons of God to be glorified.
 - Since everything in nature shared in the curse of sin brought about by Adam, then it will also share in the great hope of glorification to come.
- v. 22 - The present state of whole creation is pain, decay, and degeneration.
- The whole creation "groaneth and travaileth" presently because of the bondage that sin brought to the whole world.
- v. 23 - Believers also "groan", eagerly anticipating deliverance from these sinful bodies.
- "ourselves also" means that we as believers do also "groan" (earnestly long for) glorification through the lifting of the curse of sin, the redemption of our bodies, and being fully conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. - 1 Cor. 15:20-23
 - Believers presently have the firstfruits of the Holy Spirit by having Jesus Christ as our Saviour, but we await the consummation of the adoption to take place, which is the redemption of our glorified body.
 - Jesus shed blood on the cross did 3 things: 1) it redeems all believers' souls from hell, 2) it redeems God's creation of the curse of man's sin, and 3) it redeems all believers' bodies so that we get a new glorified body fit for living eternally in Heaven.
 - "**to wit**" => a legal term that defines that which precedes it by that which follows it, therefore "adoption" (v. 15) is defined as "*redemption of our body*", i.e. the adoption is completed by the redemption of our bodies. - Gal. 4:3-7, esp. v. 5; Rom. 13:11
- v. 24 - Believers bodies are saved by **hope**. - Titus 2:13
- Context is not dealing with saving the soul, but with saving or redemption of our body. - v.23
 - We are **not** dealing with a **worldly** wishful thinking, doubt, and uncertainty. Hope for the believer means that confident assurance that what is going to happen is sure to happen but has not yet occurred, i.e. it is factual history that is written in advance.
 - Hope is that anticipation and expectation in each believer of the imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. - John 14:3

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- As believers, our souls have already been saved (*justified*) when we believed on Jesus Christ, our spirits are being renewed day-by-day in the present (*sanctified*), and we will receive a new body (*glorified*) in the future.
 - Believers are delivered from the: 1) **penalty of sin** at salvation, 2) **power of sin** when yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit, and 3) **presence of sin** at the Rapture of the Church.
- v. 25 - Believers patiently await the Rapture and our glorified bodies.
- “that” => new glorified body
 - At the Rapture, a believer’s salvation is fully complete upon receipt of his glorified body.
 - “wait” (also “waiting” in v. 23) is God’s method of spiritual maturity
 - True faith expresses itself in enduring patience during tribulation - James 1:3-4; 5:7-8.
 - Believers are **already delivered** from the wrath to come. - 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:8-9
 - But suffering **now** for Jesus leads to “patience” if we are to reign with Christ - Rom. 5:3-4
 - Chronological order of spiritual growth - 2 Peter 1:5-9
- v. 26 - The Holy Spirit is each believer’s **intercessor** in prayer.
- “infirmities” - weaknesses, diseases, sicknesses, and troubles with and in our flesh.
 - God’s strength is made perfect in our weaknesses. - 2 Cor. 12:9-10
 - If believers must glory, it ought to be about our infirmities. - 2 Cor. 11:24-30
 - Believers often do not know what we should pray, so the Holy Spirit does it for us.
 - The Holy Spirit correctly sees our real need and then prays always in God’s will.
 - The Holy Spirit prays with these things in mind:
 - God’s purpose, Satan’s purpose, your spiritual maturity to bear the infirmity, who is watching you go through the infirmity, how you will be able to minister to others because of the infirmity, and what kind of example and influence you’ll be because of the infirmity.
 - “itself” (a neuter reflexive pronoun) is the correct translation, not himself, since the context is the **work** (and not the Person) of the Holy Spirit. (also in v. 16)
 - “cannot be uttered” means **no person can speak these groanings**, and this proves the modern tongues-speaking gibberish **does not** come from the Holy Spirit. - 1 Cor. 14:4, 22 (It’s the Jews that require a sign. - 1 Cor. 1:22)
- v. 27 - Jesus is also our intercessor. - (also in v. 34)
- So each believer has two great intercessors, the Holy Spirit indwelling us and Jesus Christ seated at the right hand of God - Mark 16:19; Heb. 12:2
 - Jesus Christ ever liveth to make intercession for believers. - Heb. 7:22-25
 - At times we pray the wrong prayers. - Rom. 8:26-27; James 4:3

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- Jesus Christ knows what is in the mind of the Holy Spirit, because He always intercedes within the perfect will of God.
- Believers are not left alone in our prayer life! The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ sort out our real needs and then re-writes and re-petitions our prayer to be within God's will, and then the prayer is answered. - 1 John 5:14-15; Phil. 4:19

v. 28 - This is an **UNCONDITIONAL** promise for all believers! - Gen. 50:14-21 (Joseph)

- This most important and unconditional promise is that all things are going to ultimately work together for good in the lives of all believers (focus is on **end result**). - Phil 1:6
- Promise is "**to them**" is used twice, i.e. believers "**that love God**" are defined as "**the called**", i.e. promise is to **believers only**. 2 Tim. 1:8-9; 1 Thess. 5:23-24
- Paul is **NOT** dividing up the believers into 2 camps, i.e. believers who love God (spirit-filled Christians) and those who do not love God (carnal Christians).
- If, as some teach, that it is necessary to "love God" as a pre-condition for all things to work together for good, then **what believer could ever hope to reach** the scriptural standard for loving God? - John 14:15; Mark 12:30
- Knowing this is an unconditional promise for all believers, it becomes **much easier** to thank God for everything and understand that it is God's perfect will for us to do so. - 1 Thess. 5:18; Eph. 5:20
- Persecution for righteousness sake brings rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. - 1 Pet. 3:14
- What purpose? v. 29 "to be conformed to the image of his Son".
- God's promises described: Eccles. 3:14; 1 Kings 8:56; Titus 1:2; 2 Peter 1:3-4
- "good" means **GOD'S IDEA AND TIMING OF GOOD**, not necessarily what we think would be good, the **END RESULT** will be for God's glory and for our ultimate good.
- The verse DOES NOT say all things are good, but all things **WORK TOGETHER** for good!
- Result of this verse - 2 Cor. 9:8

v. 29 - God's purpose for each believer is to be conformed to image of Jesus Christ.

- First notice the context of vv. 28-34 is believers, not lost people.
- Note first the order of vv. 29-30: 1) foreknow 2) predestinate 3) called 4) justified 5) glorified. (These are all the same people, **who are believers!**)
- "to be conformed" is a **PROCESS**, telling us predestination **cannot** have anything to do with getting saved because salvation is an **EVENT**.
 - All events are past in the foreknowledge of God, however God's foreknowledge **DOES NOT** serve to predetermine some people to heaven and some to hell, God's foreknowledge is determined by each person's free will choice. (God not only knows what **will** happen, but also what **could** happen!)

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- Some form of “foreknow” is used in the scriptures four times:
 1. Acts 2:23 - Even though God foreknew Jesus would be taken and crucified, God allowed the counsel to use its own will to make this decision. This means God’s foreknowledge does not determine our will or control the events of our lives, i.e. it is **PASSIVE**.
 2. Romans 8:29 - **BELIEVERS** are predestinated “**to be conformed to the image of his Son**” (not predestinated to be saved!).
 3. Romans 11:2 - Speaking of Israel, God’s foreknowledge of the nation of Israel did not predetermine that every individual Israelite would be saved, i.e. all unbelieving Jews perish.
 4. 1 Peter 1:1-2 - Election is “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father”. (This verse does not say **as determined by** but rather means God’s election is in agreement, harmony, or consistent with); therefore foreknowledge is not the same as election; i.e. God’s foreknowledge does not determine who the elect are, but is in agreement with each person’s free will choice.
 - God’s foreknowledge **never interferes** with a person’s free will or the choices a person makes. (Steak/Liver example) OTHER EXAMPLES:
 - 1 Sam. 23:5-13, esp. vv.11-13 - **David’s decision** to depart in v. 13 caused Saul to “forbare to go forth” in v. 13, which went **against** God’s previously stated foreknowledge that Saul “will come down” in v. 11
 - Jer. 26:13 - The potential for man to amend his ways “and obey the voice of the Lord your God” would cause the Lord to repent of the evil he had already pronounced against them; i.e. God’s foreknowledge is **always passive** in response to whatever choice man makes.
 - God having established a plan of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ proves that God responds to the choices of man, even when man makes the wrong choice. God’s **perfect will** would have been for man to stay in a state of innocence before the fall of Adam and Even in the garden of Eden, but that did not happen, therefore God responded to man’s wrong choice and made a way for man to be reconciled back to God.
 - The word “**if**” proves man’s free will choices dictate God’s foreknowledge, not the other way around. - Examples: Rev. 3:20; 2 Chron. 7:14
- Predestination - “predestinate/d” is also used in the scriptures **four times**:
 1. Romans 8:29 - Predestination is shown as operative **ONLY AFTER** salvation, not before!
 - Predestination cannot be the false Calvinist “TULIP” doctrine of the sovereign God pre-determining which people will be saved and lost, leading to the false doctrine of “fatalism”. (Have you ever met a Calvinist who was **not** “one of God’s elect” and could not do a thing in the world about it?) - 1 Tim. 2:3-6; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 2:2

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- Calvinism leads to apathy and laziness in soul-winning since this false doctrine teaches that everybody's destination is determined beforehand by God.
 - Believers are predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, **not** predestined to be saved; salvation is "limited" only by "**whosoever will**". - Rom. 10:9-10, 13; John 1:12, 3:16
 - God foreknows the destination of a lost man is hell until the moment he trusts Jesus Christ, at which time his destination changes to heaven. God's foreknowledge **CHANGES** based upon the choices that are made by a person's **free will**.
 - Man's free will determines God's foreknowledge, not the other way around.
2. Romans 8:30 - Predestination is God's plan for all believers (ones he calls) to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.
- Predestination is the **process** which starts **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** the event of getting saved and culminates at the redemption and glorification of our bodies at the Rapture, when all believers will be fully conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. - 1 John 3:2
3. Ephes. 1:3-6
- God foreknew and predestined that all believers would be adopted in as children of God, and as such, starts the process to become holy and without blame. - Eph. 1:4
4. Ephes. 1:9-12 - Believers are predestined to obtain an inheritance as each believer is conformed into the image of Jesus Christ in accordance with God's purpose and will. - Phil. 1:6
- "firstborn" - this is a position or title, not just being the oldest male child.
 - The context here is not about Jesus' physical birth, but how God is going to work all things together for good to all believers who have been adopted into God's family.
 - As members of the Body of Christ, all believers will forever fall under the estate of Jesus Christ. - Heb. 1:2; John 3:35; Rom. 8:16-17
 - Jesus Christ is the firstborn of all believers and the church. - Col. 1:15-18; Heb. 12:23-24
- v. 30 - "**whom**" and "**them**" defined as all believers (notice all in past tense).
- God determined from the foundation of the world that he would have a family of sons (fulfillment is by all believers) who would be like unto his own Son, Jesus Christ.

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- God has predestined all those he foreknew that would receive Jesus Christ as Saviour will be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.
- The same ones he predestinated, he also called, the same ones he called, he also justified, and the same ones he justified, he also glorified (in God's eyes, all believers have been glorified but it hasn't happened yet). - Heb. 7:25 (Believers are saved to the **uttermost**. → To the maximum amount possible!)

vv. 31-34 - Five questions are asked referring back to vv. 1-30 because they deal with the battle between the flesh and the spirit and how the Holy Spirit can give our new nature the victory over our old sinful nature.

v. 31 - How should we look at what has been stated in vv. 1-30 in light of our new nature? How are believers to get the victory over sin? How can we ensure that God is "for us"?

- We all know that the world, the flesh, and the Devil are any believer's three great enemies, but the implication from this question is who can **successfully stand** against us as believers when we **(1) walk in the spirit - vv. 1 & 4, (2) mind the things of the Spirit - v. 5, (3) mortify the deeds of the body - v. 13, (4) suffer with him - v. 17, and (5) patiently wait for the return of the Lord in confident hope - vv. 25?** ANSWER: **NOBODY and NOTHING**, victory is sure when we will do these things in the power of the Holy Spirit!
- **What God started** (with the greatest act of love in the history of mankind...the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ) **He will finish**. - Rom. 4:17-22; Rom. 5:8; Phil. 1:6; Jude 1:24-25

v. 32 - A glimpse at God's generosity and love toward mankind.

- Since God has already demonstrated his love for us in sending His only begotten Son to die for sinners, this proves he will meet all our needs. - Phil 4:19; Matt. 6:33
- "all" does not mean absolutely "all without limitation," e.g. \$10 billion.
- Notice 2 definitions of the word "all" in this verse.
- God will give believers "all things" necessary to live a successful Christian life. - Prov. 28:5; 2 Pet. 1:3-4
- All these things must be in God's will, **not** our carnal desires. - 1 Tim. 6:6-12

v. 33 - Who has the right or jurisdiction to lay anything to the charge of God's elect? **NOBODY!**

- The Devil and all unbelievers are the accusers of the brethren. - Rev. 12:9-11
- Since God Himself has given all believers a full pardon, accusers make no difference at all! - Mic. 7:19-19
- God is the Final Authority and Jesus Christ is the Final Judge, so no accusations or charges can ever be upheld against a believer. - John 5:22, 26-27
- Every believer has been declared by God as perfectly sinless in His sight, nobody else's opinions or accusations matter at all.

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- It is Jesus' righteousness that makes believers 100% perfect in God's eyes. - Rom. 10:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21
- v. 34 - Nobody, even the Devil, can make any condemnation stick against a believer! - John 3:18; Rom. 14:4
- God is challenging the right of anyone to condemn a believer, it cannot be done!
 - God sees every believer just as He sees Jesus Christ, totally sinless and perfect!
 - No charge sticks because Jesus Christ Himself is in Heaven right now making intercession (which is an ongoing ministry according to 1 Tim. 2:5) pleading every believer's case, and he never loses a case! - 1 John 2:1; Heb. 4:14:16
 - Example of angel of the Lord protecting Joshua the high priest from Satan's accusation and attack. - Zech. 3:1-7
- v. 35 - One final question broken into 2 parts - Context of 35-39 is **believers!**
- There are 3 uses of the phrase "love of Christ" in the Bible: 1) here in this verse; 2) 2 Cor. 5:14; 3) Eph. 3:19
 - Who or what can separate the believer from God's Love? Answer: Nobody and no type of persecution! **What a promise!**
 - Even before Calvary and the resurrection, when nobody had yet been placed into the body of Christ, Jesus emphatically stated nobody could separate a believer from God. - John 10:28-29
 - No persecution, no matter how severe, does anything but drive a believer closer to Jesus.
 - Throughout history, persecution of believers and the church has always been used by God to cause the church to spread, grow, and thrive.
- v. 36 - Quotation of Psalm 44:22, a Tribulation passage, where the Jews as God's sheep will be killed by the Antichrist and False Prophet on the altar of the temple. - Rev. 6 (seals)
- Then why do we find this reference in Romans, written to Christians? To show us that persecution is the norm for the Christian. - 2 Cor. 4:7-18
 - Publicly proclaiming Christ in many countries of the world brings the immediate possibility of persecution and death.
 - Although we experience little persecution in America today, this liberty and freedom to live as a Christian has been paid for with much bloodshed, suffering, and death of others.
 - All across the world, many Christians live out this verse in their daily lives.
 - Enemies of Christ kill Christians while thinking they are doing service for God. - John 16:2

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- v. 37 - Persecuted Christians are not just conquerors, but “**more than** conquerors”.
- “Nay”, it matters not one bit that we are like sheep being slaughtered and going through the troubles listed in verse 35, Jesus Christ gives us the absolute victory! PRAISE THE LORD!
 - The believer’s victory is found through Jesus Christ, not ourselves. - Philip. 4:13 - ***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.***
- vv. 38-39 - Greatest passage in the Bible on eternal security of the believer.
- Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul is absolutely convinced and certain about what he about to say on the subject of eternal security of the believer ...**nothing** that exists that can separate a believer from the love of God.
 - Here God lists 10 things that cannot separate a believer from the love of God.
 - The “love of God” is “**IN** Christ Jesus our Lord”. **PREREQUISITE**: If you aren’t IN Christ Jesus, then you are lost and you ARE NOT **IN** THE LOVE OF GOD.
 - No lost person is ever **IN** THE LOVE OF GOD. - Psalm 7:11; 9:17; John 3:18
 - Even though “**the goodness of God**” (Rom. 2:4) is designed to lead a lost person to receive Jesus as his Saviour, **no sinner lives in the love of God until he gets saved.**

Seven reasons why the salvation of the believer is secure and **NEVER** has to worry about going to hell:

1. Election of the Father to each person who believes on Jesus Christ.
Whosoever believeth on Jesus Christ is promised a mansion in heaven. - John 14:1-3
2. Each believer is in union with Jesus Christ and a part of His body, therefore he cannot ever go to hell because Jesus is not headed for hell. - Eph. 5:30
3. Since salvation is a free gift, there is nothing you can do to earn it and there is nothing you can do to lose it. People who believe you can sin away or lose your salvation are trusting in their works or their own righteousness to earn salvation or hold onto it, and thereby pervert the only true gospel of grace through faith.
4. Jesus intercessory prayer on behalf of all believers guarantees our salvation is secure. Just what kind of prayer warrior is Jesus Christ? - John 11:41-42
5. We are kept secure by the power of God, not by good works. - 1 Peter 1:3-5
6. The believer’s security is based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ, not ours. We are saved by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ’s righteousness is what believers are saved by and it is **not ours to lose**. Believers can lose the joy of their salvation, but not salvation itself. - Rom. 10:3-4
7. Eternal security fulfills God’s eternal purpose in the believer. - John 17:9-12, John 17:24-26