

ROMANS: PART 47
SEPT. 1, 1996

Unquenchable Love
Romans 8:28-30

Context of Romans 8 which describes the Christian's *Life In The Spirit*

1. We still sin but we are exempt from condemnation. Justification. Rom 8:1-4.
2. We still sin but we have new life & can pursue obedience. Sanctification. Rom 8:5-14.
3. We still strive but not as slaves, we serve as sons. Adoption. Rom 5:14-17.
4. We experience suffering but anticipate future glory. Glorification. Rom 8:18-25.
5. We experience suffering but also receive the Spirit's help. Intercession. 8:26-27.
6. We experience suffering but are encouraged by God's purpose. Sovereign Grace. 8:28ff
7. Conclusion: 5 unanswerable questions. Nothing can separate us from God's Love. 8:31ff

God's Absolute Promise To His Children To Work All Things Together For Good. Romans 8:28.

1. The **Objects** of His Promise: For Christians Only.
 - ◆ All is not well in this world. This is not the best of all possible worlds.
 - ◆ This is for *lovers of God* (Christians = Theophileons)
 - ◆ Mk 12:30; Jn 8:42; 14:15-24; 21:15-17; I Cor 16:22; II Cor 13:14; Eph 6:23-24; II Thess 3:5; James 1:12; 2:5; I Pet 1:8; I Jn 2:5,15)
2. The **Purpose** Of His Promise: For Good -- To be like Christ.
 - ◆ Not health, wealth, prosperity, the American Dream.
 - ◆ But to be like Christ, holy, God-honoring, faithful (often without the above things)
 - ◆ *This is what life is all about!!!!*
3. The **Means** Of His Promise: God Sovereignly Uses All Things.
 - ◆ The things used are not necessarily good in themselves.
 - ◆ Sickness, death, persecution, grief, poverty, abandonment are not good.
 - ◆ He causes these things *to work together* for good
 - ◆ This promise absolutely assumes that He is sovereign over all
4. The **Certainty** of His Promise: "We know" this -- not "we feel" this to be so.
 - ◆ In Rom 8:26 we do *not know* how to pray -- we don't know always know the specifics.
 - ◆ In Rom 8:28 we *know* -- we have ironclad truth not sentimentalism. Joseph, II Cor 4:8,9.
 - ◆ We cling to His Word. Gen 40:7-8.

God's Sovereign Love, Ability, & Plan To Work All Things Together For Good. Romans 8:29-30.

1. He **foreknew** you: His motive in your salvation.
What God did is *love* you before you were ever born, knowing full well your sin, your hostility against Him, even your failure of Him as a Christian.
2. He **predestined** you: Your salvation planned.
What God did is *mark you out* for salvation, to be remade in the image of His Son.
3. He **called** you: Your salvation effected.
What God did is actually bring you to Christ when you couldn't come & did not want to come.
4. He **justified** you: Your salvation accomplished.
What God did is make you *conform perfectly to His Law*, without compromising His holiness. He did this through Christ's work apart from any contribution from you.
5. He **glorified** you: Your salvation completed.
What God did is *bring you to heaven*, perfect, without losing you or any of His saved people.

Application.

1. *Who* has done it? To Whom should you give thanks?
2. Can you give thanks in *all* things?
3. If you are not His then "*all things work together for evil*" for you. Come to Him!