Lesson 11
November 15, 2026

Privileges, Hope, and Assurance:

God is working for the good of His beloved children.

THE LESSON OVERVIEW

As we continue studying Romans 8, we delve into the blessings and assurances that God's children receive. The heavenly Father offers believers freedom from sin, the certainty of adoption, and the status of co-heirs with Christ. The present suffering of believers does not compare with the promise of eternal glory. In the midst of difficulties, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, and we have the promise that God works all things for our good. This astonishing chapter closes unwavering commitment and Christ's inseparable love, giving us confidence in our identity, purpose, and security.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Calvinism and Arminianism offer distinct perspectives on the presentation of salvation. Calvinism, rooted in John Calvin's teachings, emphasizes God's foreknowledge, predestination, and salvation based on grace, largely independent of human agency before or after redemption. Therefore, salvation cannot be gained or lost through human actions. The teachings of Jacobus Arminius, however, emphasizes human free will, salvation tied to faith in God's grace, and the possibility of returning to sin, thereby willfully forfeiting one's salvation. John Wesley, and therefore the Wesleyan-Holiness movement, mainly aligns with the Arminian view.

THE LESSON OUTLINE

1. **PRIVILEGES FOR GOD'S CHILDREN: Romans 8:12-17.**
    - A. Freedom from the Bondage of Sin, (12-13)
    - B. Adoption and Assurance, (14-17)
2. **GLORIOUS HOPE: Romans 8:18-30.**
    - A. Present Suffering and Future Glory, (18-25)
    - B. The Spirit's Help and God's Purpose, (26-30)
3. **ASSURANCE OF SALVATION: Romans 8:31-39.**
    - A. God's Unshakable Commandment, (31-34)
    - B. The Inseparable Love of Christ, (35-39)

DISCUSSING THE LESSON

1. PRIVILEGES FOR GOD'S CHLDREN: Romans 8:12-17.

A. Freedom from the Bondage of Sin, Romans 8:12-13.

These two verses address the Christian's responsibility to live according to the Spirit, emphasizing freedom from the bondage of sin. Paul writes, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh" (v. 12). Christians are not indebted to the flesh, which cannot save. Instead, God's grace, poured out through the sacrifice of Jesus, frees us to live for God. Through Christ's redemptive work, we are no longer enslaved to the sinful nature that once dominated our lives.

In verse 13, Paul continues, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." We are called to walk in the Spirit, empowered to resist the desires of the flesh. It is a release from sin's penalty and an invitation to a transformed life, which reflects God's righteousness and purpose. As Christians, we are to actively "out to death" (NKJV) the sinful deeds of the body. This cannot be achieved solely through our effort, but rather through cooperation with the Holy Spirit. Living in the Spirit requires intentionality and surrender, as it involves aligning thoughts, actions, and desires with God's will. The promise of abundant and eternal life is contingent upon this spiritual discipline. It is a call to live victoriously, no longer as slaves to sin, but as children of God walking in the liberty Christ has secured.

B. Adoption and Assurance, Romans 8:14-17.

If we "are led by the Spirit of God" (v. 14), we are not "fearful slaves" (v. 15 NLT). Instead, "the Spirit of adoption" assures us we are brought into a relationship with God. This adoption is not merely a legal transaction; it is a life-changing experience, granting us the privilege to call God "Abba, Father" (v. 15), a term of deep affection and trust. It expresses the assurance of belonging and security in God's love, offering us confidence as "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (v. 17).

The passage also shows the connection between suffering and glory. To be heirs with Christ means sharing in His heirs with Christ means sharing in His sufferings, but also guarantees sharing in His glory. This dual reality assures us as believers that our trials are part of a divine process that leads to eternal rewards. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit" (v. 16 NKJV), confirming our statue as God's children and reinforcing our hope in His promises. Adoption into God's family calls us to respond with gratitude, perseverance, and unwavering faith.

Most parents can recall when their child first said "mama" or dada." It is a special moment when we sense that our child identifies us in a way not shared with anyone else. That bond grows from recognition to dependence and ultimately to trust. When we are born again, there is a change in our relationship with God. It is a relationship so intimate that we can look to God as "Abba, Father." It's the beginning of a growing relationship in which we recognize the hand of God in our lives and learn to depend on Him with increasing trust and confidence.

2. GLORIOUS HOPE: Romans 8:18-30.

A. Present Suffering and Future Glory, Romans 8:18-25.

Because "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (v. 18), we can have hope during trials. The temporary pain of life pales in comparison to the eternal joy that awaits us as Christians. Paul elaborates on the cosmic scope of redemption, describing creation itself as groaning and travailing, longing for liberation from the corruption brought about by sin (vv. 19-22). This imagery captures the universal impact of sin and the anticipation of restoration, pointing to God's plan to renew not only humanity but all of creation. Suffering is reframed as a forerunner to a hope that extends beyond individual circumstances.

Paul also emphasizes the role of hope and patience in navigating present trials. He explains that Christians, having received "the firstfruits of the Spirit" (v. 23), groan inwardly as we await the full realization of our adoption and redemption. This tension between present hardship and future promise reflects the already-but-not-yet nature of God's kingdom, where salvation has been initiated but awaits its consummation. We are called to persevere, for our hope is anchored not in what is seen but in what is unseen. This call to endurance reminds us that faith is an active trust in God's promises, even when circumstances seems overwhelming.

B. The Spirit's Help and God's Purpose, Romans 8:26-30.

This passage shows the interplay between human frailty, divine assistance, and God's overarching purpose. First, we discover the Spirit's role in interceding for us as Christians during moments of weakness, particularly when we struggle to put our prayers into words (vv. 26-27). This demonstrated the compassionate nature of God, who provides His Spirit as an advocate who takes our pain and sorrow and translates them into powerful prayers. Our limitations do not hinder our relationship with God; rather, they invite His empowering presence. Through the Spirit's intercession, our prayers are refined and elevated, demonstrating God's intimate involvement in our lives.

Building upon this foundation, verse 28-30 reveal the grand scope of God's purpose for His people. Thankfully, "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (v. 28). "All things" would seem to be a big order, but this is Paul's affirmation of faith that God is working for us to fulfill His purpose in us. How "all things work together for good" is a mystery. As W. H. Griffith Thomas questions in his commentary on Romans, "Can sunshine and tears be harmonized?" The conclusion drawn by faith is that they can be. From the human viewpoint there is much assurance in this verse, but of more significance is that we are told things work "according to His purpose." There is a divine plan being fulfilled in each test of trail, joy, or sorrow. No wonder Paul could say, "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

This promise is rooted in God's plan of redemption. The progression from foreknowledge to predestination, calling, justification, and, ultimately, glorification illustrates the certainty of God's work in the lives of His people (vv. 29-30). It is a testament to His sovereignty and

commitment to conforming His people to the image of Christ. Together, these verses offer comfort and assurance, reminding us that through the Spirit's help and God's purpose, every challenge and triumph serve to advance God's purpose in our lives.

Creation, which was the only innocent party in the drama of the Fall and its aftermath, is portrayed as waiting for God's restoration. It is described as a woman in labor, enduring the pain in anticipation of her child's birth (v. 22). Some women have said that giving birth was more painful than they expected, but when they held their child in their arms, the pain was replaced by overwhelming joy. Similarly, Paul, said believers now "groan inwardly, as we wait eagerly for … the redemption and transformation of our body [at the resurrection]. For in this this hope we were saved [by faith]" (vv. 23-24 AMP).

3. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION: Romans 8:31-39.

A. God's Unshakable Commitment, Romans 8:31-34.

These four verses provide a profound testament to God's unwavering commitment to His people. The passage begins with the rhetorical question, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (v. 31). The implied answer that "no one can prevail against us when God is for us" encapsulates the assurance we have in God.

Verse 32 emphasizes the magnitude of God's gift of grace, as He "spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all" – the ultimate sacrifice made for our redemption. This act of divine love assures us that God will graciously provide all that is necessary for our spiritual well-being. The Holy Spirit makes intercession (v. 26), God is for us (v. 31), and Jesus intercedes for us (v. 34). This is a threefold promise of intervention to provide and sustain our salvation. The imagery of Jesus at the right hand of the Father interceding for Christians conveys both authority and intimacy, affirming that Jesus actively advocated for us in the heavenly realm. Such advocacy reinforces our confidence that nothing can sever the bond between God and us as we walk by faith in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

Furthermore, verse 33 says no accusation or condemnation can stand against those whom God justifies. This is a powerful reminder of the security found in His grace and the unshakable nature of His covenant with us as His children. All God asks is that we put our faith in the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus and walk in His Spirit. Verse 34 further addresses the issue of condemnation, stating that no accusation against God's elect can stand because it is God himself who justifies. Satan, the accuser, will try to remind God and us of all our past sins, but God said they are under the blood of His Son. Satan does not have the power to resurrect our past when God has promised us a glorious future.

B. The Inseparable Love of Christ, Romans 8:35-39.

This passage poignantly conveys the unwavering, unbreakable nature of Christ's love for us as His followers. Paul poses another rhetorical question, asking, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" and emphatically concludes that nothing can (v. 35). He lists various things – tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword – yet asserts that even I the

face of such adversities, believers are “more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (v. 37). As Christians, our relationship with Christ is not contingent on external circumstance or human frailty but is rooted in the eternal and sacrificial love of Jesus. It serves as a powerful reminder of the hope found in faith, offering comfort when we are enduring hardships.

Paul’s declaration “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus” (v. 39) is a testament to the boundless and all-encompassing nature of divine love. This assurance transcends human understanding, emphasizing that God’s love is unconditional and victorious over every conceivable force. The passage invites us to rest in the certainty of this love, knowing that it is steadfast and eternal. It also challenges us to live with confidence and courage, fully trusting in the unshakable bond we share with Christ. We should respond with a profound sense of gratitude and worship for the immeasurable gift of Christ’s love.

When a young man or woman falls in love, they might exchange letters, poems, or text messages expressing their undying love for one another. There is a desire to express their affections in ways that are more permanent than the spoken word. Sometimes, even after the death of their loved one, the surviving person will pull out old cards, letters, or texts and reread them. God also chose to express His love for humanity in tangible ways, including His written Word and His Son: “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). When we need to be reminded of God’s love, we need only remember the sacrifice of His Son, and reread His love letter, the Bible.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

The love of God has been poured out upon His people. It is this love that provides the grace that empowers His people to prevail over the trials, temptations, and troubles in this life.

MINISTRY IN ACTION

The church should always provide a balanced picture of salvation as a human response to God’s grace. That grace in turn, empowers the Christian to consistently walk in paths of righteousness.

The Church at Rome in AD 58

The Apostles Paul's letter, sent to the church at Rome (1:17), is generally dated AD 58. In a city with a population of one million, who were the people in the church at Rome, 28 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

When was the church at Rome established, and by whom? These are questions to which we have no definite answers. However, the church at Rome may have been established shortly after the Day of Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples (Acts 2:1-4).

In the first century, there was a significant population of Jews in Rome. The expulsion of Jews from Rome, mentioned in Acts 18:2, was of brief duration, ending with the death of Claudius Caesar in AD 54.

Among the devout Jews "from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) present on the Day of Pentecost were "visitors from Rome" (v. 10). Maybe some of these Jews from Rome, who became believers in Jesus as the Messiah on the Day of Pentecost (v. 41), became the beginning of the church at Rome.

Assuming these devout Jews from Rome who became believers in Jesus as the Messiah were the beginning of the church at Rome, they would have been much like the Jews living in Jerusalem and Judea who believed in Jesus.

The earliest Jewish believers in Jesus as the Messiah had no thought of being separated from Judaism by their faith. They thought all Jews should accept Jesus as the Messiah, and that Gentiles who believed in Jesus as the Messiah should become converts to Judaism (see Acts 15:1-5).

Likely the same condition prevailed with the church at Rome until the Jew-Gentile issue was settled for the church everywhere by the Jerusalem Council in AD 50 (see Acts 15:22-29). It appears that, by AD 58, the church at Rome was made up mostly of Gentiles, and a number of Paul's converts and associates had migrated to Rome and were members of the church there (see Romans 16:3-16).

WORKSHEET

If God is For Us …

1. **List some of "the sufferings of this present time" (Romans 8:18a).**

2. **What are these sufferings "not worthy to be compared with" (v. 18b), and why not?**

3. **According to verse 23, what evidence has God given believers that we will one day be fully redeemed (also see 2 Corinthians 1:22)?**

4. **How does the Holy Spirit help us in our difficulties (Romans 8:26-27)?**

RESPONSIVE READING (based on verses 35-39 NLT)

Teacher: If God is for us…

Students: Can anything separate us from Christ's love?

Teacher: If God is for us…

Students: Can trouble or calamity separate us from Christ's love?

Teacher: If God is for us…

Students: Can being persecuted, or hungry, or destitute separate us from Christ' love?

Teacher: If God is for us…

Students: Can danger or being threatened with death separate us from Christ's love?

Teacher: If God is for us…

Students: Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loves us.

Teacher: Nothing in all creation…

Students: Will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.