


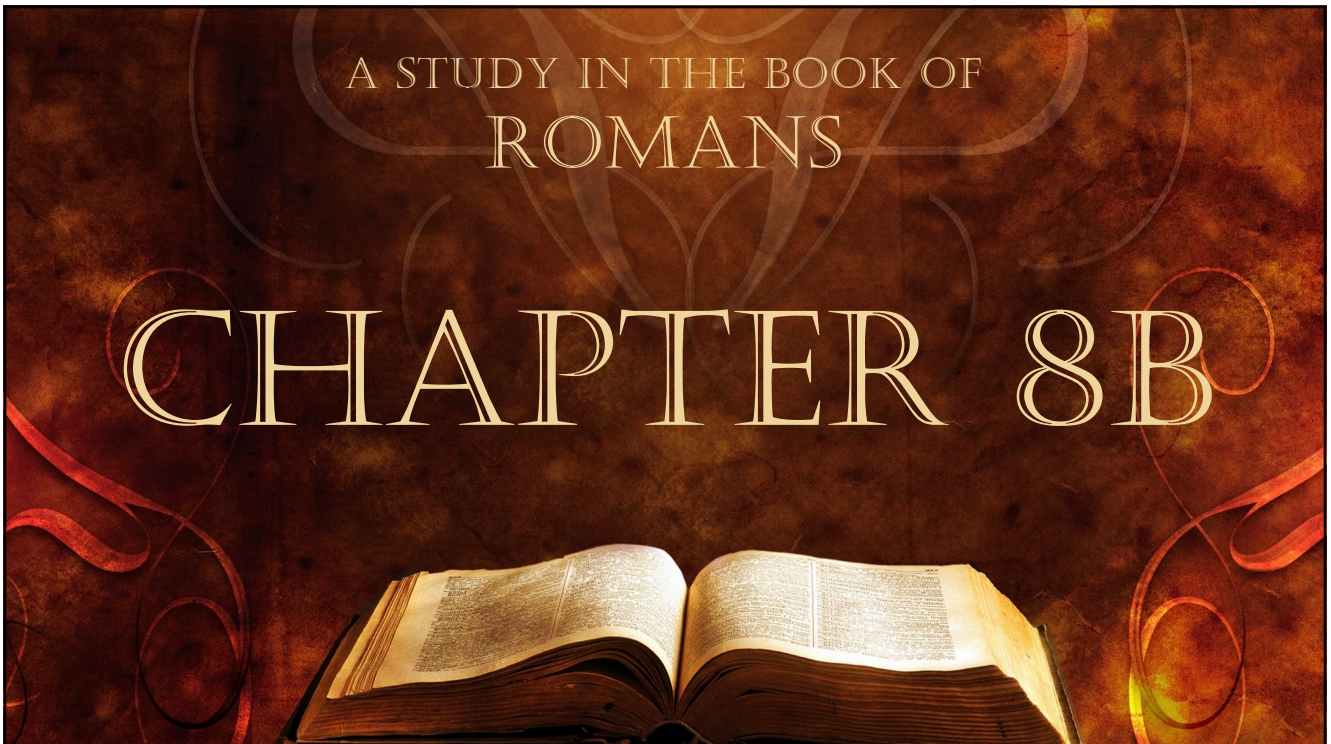
NT 2731 The Book of Romans
Chapters 1 – 8

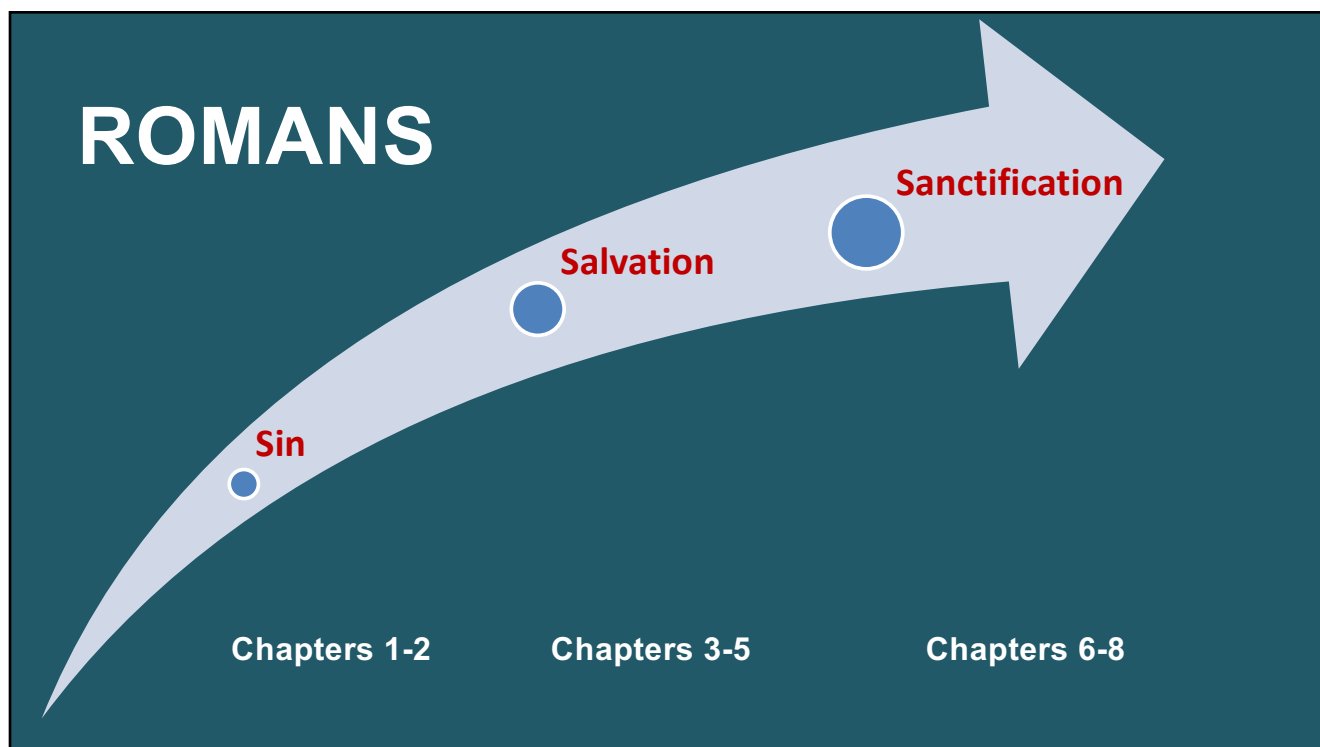
 **MID-AMERICA**
SEMINARY • COLLEGE

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A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF
ROMANS

CHAPTER 8B





Chapter 8

Verse 21- *that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

When Adam and Eve sinned, the entire universe paid the price for their sin and fell too. It was corrupted but will be restored when God recreates heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1-4).

Chapter 8

Verse 22- *For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

All of creation (including us) suffers from bondage (to sin) and decay.

The suffering (groaning) we feel is like the pains of childbirth. It's real and intense, but it will lead to a moment of "birth" when all will be made right, and the pain will be forgotten.

The emphasis is on the pain, but more on the wonderful absence of pain after the birth (our glorified state).

Chapter 8

Verse 23- *And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.*

Not only is all of creation "groaning" (*systemazei*- *sun*- together + *stenazó*- to feel pressure from what is coming on). We groan individually, waiting as adopted children for our fleshly bodies to be perfected.

Chapter 8

Verse 24- *And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.*

first fruits- This reminds us of the practice of bringing the “first fruits” of the grain harvest as offering to the Temple at the beginning of the harvest. This was an offering to note the guarantee that the whole process would be completed. The Holy Spirit in our lives is a promise that we will one day be “fully harvested” after we die or are raptured. Our spirit has been redeemed, and one day our fleshly body will be redeemed too.

Chapter 8

Verse 25- *But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it.*

The time between our salvation (becoming alive in Christ and receiving the Spirit) and the resurrection of our physical body is a time of groaning- positioning but not yet arriving.

Christians groan in longing for complete redemption through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who intensifies our solidarity with creation in suffering and in hope for full and final salvation.

Chapter 8

Verse 26- *Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;*

As we await complete adoption (the redemption of our physical bodies), we are not alone in our struggle with the flesh. God's Spirit helps us in our weakness, interceding on our behalf.

He takes our feeble words and translates them into what the Father can understand as His will, much like a parent listening to the prayers of their little children.

Chapter 8

Verse 27- *and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

One way He helps us is by interceding for us before the Father because they are in perfect harmony. He is listening for that which is in tune with His (the Father's) will.

He does this by searching our hearts, something that we are sometimes prevented from doing by our flesh- to know why we pray in the way we do.

Chapter 8

Verse 28- *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

This is probably one of the most quoted and misunderstood verses in the book and in the New Testament.

The purposes of God are the most important thing in spiritual life. Taking this verse out of context changes its meaning. It must be understood that Paul is writing to Christians, and this verse is for Christians only. In that sense, all that God allows to happen to us is filtered through fingers of love.

Chapter 8

Verse 29- *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters;*

foreknew- *proegnō* (*pro-* before + *gnosis-* know)

predestined- *proōrisen* (*pro-* before + *horizo-* to determine)

The object of this foreknowledge is salvation. The object of predestination is the conformity to the image of God's Son.

Jesus is the firstborn (not in the sense that there was a time when He was not) among end-time people with glorified human bodies.

Chapter 8

Verse 30- *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

God is omniscient. There is nothing He does not know, including who will come to faith in Him. He knows who will come to him and calls them to Himself, later resulting in their justification (right standing before God through the atoning work of His Son) and glorification (the ultimate salvation of body and soul).

Chapter 8

Verse 31- *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

God's ultimate plan will not be thwarted. Satan has been trying to win over God since the Garden of Eden. Even though it looked like his corruption of mankind was complete, God saved Noah and his family in the ark. Throughout history, God's plan has always been accomplished, even though it might not have seemed so at the time.

Chapter 8

Verse 32- *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

The ultimate evidence that God is for us is that He gave His own Son as a sacrifice to restore the relationship broken by Adam and Eve. This reminds us of Genesis 22, when a substitute was found for Abraham as he sacrificed his son Isaac. Here, however, the Son was the sacrifice for us.

This sacrifice opened up “every spiritual blessing” (Eph 1:3) to us.

Chapter 8

Verse 33- *Who will bring charges against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies;*

*Revelation 12:10- Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down**, the one who accuses them before our God day and night.*

Paul uses a legal term- *enkalesei- en* (in) + *kaleo* (to call) – to call in or to bring to account. These accusations fail because God is the one who justifies us, not us, other people, or even Satan.

Chapter 8

Verse 34- *who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

This verse can be understood in at least two ways:

- No one can condemn us (ourselves, any other person, Satan) because of the atoning work of Christ on the cross.
- God does not condemn us because He has taken our sin on Himself through the work of Christ on the cross.

Either or both interpretations are correct.

Chapter 8

Verse 34- *who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*

Again, in legal terms, Paul helps us to see Jesus standing by the throne of God as our advocate against anyone who would accuse us in front of God for our sin.

- “I died for that sin.”
- “The penalty for that sin is paid.”
- “Look at my wounds. That sin is covered by my blood.”

Chapter 8

Verse 35- *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?*

The obvious answer to this important question is: Nothing. Paul experienced the following in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29:

...labors, imprisonments, beaten times without number, five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes, three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent adrift at sea, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, dangers among false brothers; in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

Chapter 8

Verse 36- *Just as it is written:*

*“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

Paul is quoting Psalm 44:22:

*But for Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.*

The difficulties we face in life are not a sign that God has abandoned us. Actually, it draws us closer to Him as we see Him sustain us in difficult times.

Chapter 8

Verse 37- *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

overwhelmingly conquer- hypernikōmen (hyper- beyond + nikao-conquer)

Even though difficult things happen to us, ultimately, we will win the victory over all conflict because of Christ's atoning work on the cross.

God's love for us is far greater than any difficulty that comes our way.

Chapter 8

Verse 38- *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

Paul lists ten realities in four pairs and two single items that cannot separate us from God:

death or life- We will ultimately conquer death because of the power of Christ in our lives. The difficulties of life work for us, not against us. God permits them for our perfecting and for His glory (Wiersbe).

Chapter 8

Verse 38- *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

angels or principalities- angels in heaven or principalities (*archai-* earthly rulers). Some commentators view “principalities” as bad angels- demons.

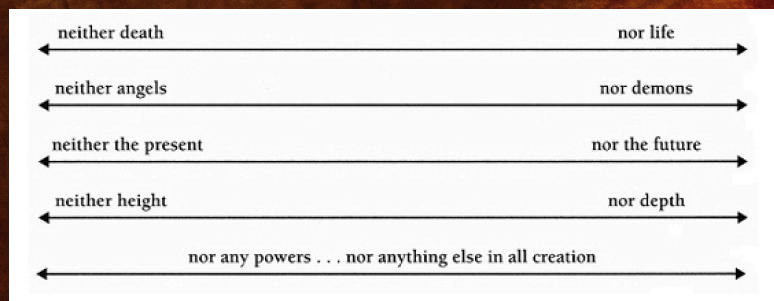
things present or things to come- things that are happening to us now or the threat of things in the future.

Chapter 8

Verse 38- *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*

powers- perhaps Satan and his demons (Eph. 6:12); or possibly human governments.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12



Chapter 8

Verse 39- *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

height or depth- Some Bible scholars see these as astronomical references. Anything in the world above or the world below cannot come between us and the God who loves us. Possibly a reference to Psalm 139:8 written by King David:

“If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.”

Chapter 8

Verse 39- *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

any other created thing- Paul ends with a sweeping generalization to cover everything else that exists.

He does not say “will separate” but “will be able to separate.” He is referring to different types of power in this passage, and nothing is more powerful than God.

Next week...
Chapter 8b:
Final Examination

