



Saved to be

Sanctified



Romans 8



## AS YOU BEGIN THIS BIBLE STUDY ...

A few years ago, a woman sought the counsel of a pastor with this question, “What Scripture would you recommend to share with someone who is dying?” Without hesitation he immediately responded, “All of Romans 8.” He went on to explain how rich of a reminder it was for a believer in Christ to know that they can never be separated from the love of Christ—ever.

There is no circumstance in which the person who belongs to Jesus Christ can ever be removed from that everlasting relationship. We are all drawing nearer to that day when we will be removed from this physical world and arrive at home with the One who died to make us His. However, we are responsible for how we live each day while we are still here on earth.

The eighth chapter of Romans is that indispensable record of what has been done in our salvation, the reality of life when the Spirit of God dwells in you, what lies ahead for those who are truly Christ’s and concludes with the resounding theological case for God’s loyal and everlasting love and care to the very end.

Romans is a clear explanation of the gospel of Jesus Christ from beginning to end. It begins with the bleak and seemingly hopeless state of man who will face the judgment of God for sin for all eternity. It continues to give a detailed account of sin and then begins to unfold the redemptive plan of God brought about by each part of the Godhead from salvation from sin to holiness in practical life. This chapter lays out the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

No one can live the Christian life by their own strength or wisdom. Jesus said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). It is the Holy Spirit at work within us that conforms us into the image of Christ, which is the goal for everyone God has granted salvation to.

My prayer is that the deep truths of our faith would be explained, understood and lived out in each of our lives, that we might bring great glory to God in a world desperate for an example of how true believers in Christ live out their faith.

For His Glory,

Tiffany



*A Women's Inductive Bible Study*  
*ROMANS 8*  
*12 Week Study*

As You Begin This Study: Tiffany Kile 3

The Inductive Method of Bible Study 7

Introduction To Romans: Theology and Foundation of the Book - MacArthur Study Bible 9

Romans Chapter 8: Legacy Standard Bible 11

WEEK 1 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:1-4	The Cure for Condemnation 15
WEEK 2 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:5-8	The Mind Determines the Life 21
WEEK 3 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:9-13	Those Who Belong to God 25
WEEK 4 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:14-17	Children and Heirs of God 29
WEEK 5 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:18	Today's Suffering and Tomorrow's Glory 35
WEEK 6 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:19-22	The Anxious Longing of Creation 39
WEEK 7 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:23-27	Eager Expectation of Hope 43
WEEK 8 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:28	Proof of Providence 49
WEEK 9 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:28	Purposeful Calling 55
WEEK 10 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:29-30	The Perfect Progression of Salvation 61
WEEK 11 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:31-34	God's Loyalty and Protection 67
WEEK 12 HOMEWORK	Romans 8:35-39	God's Irrevocable Love 73



## THE INDUCTIVE METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

This method consists of three main steps:

- 1) **Observation** answers the question: “What does the text say?”
- 2) **Interpretation** answers the question: “What did the text mean to the original audience?”
- 3) **Application** answers the question: “How should the truth of this passage change me?”

### 1) STEPS FOR OBSERVATION: “*What does the text say?*”

The tendency is to hurry through this first step and overlook pertinent information that God is laying out for us. Prayerfully slow your heart and mind down and proceed with these steps:

#### **TWO AREAS OF OBSERVATION TO USE:**

##### 1. OBSERVATION WHEN YOU BEGIN TO STUDY A BOOK OF THE BIBLE:

- a) Read the entire text (book) from start to finish.
- b) Read the text again several times slowly. Listening to the text being read by someone else (on an app) can also be helpful.  
(You do not need to do this every time you approach a specific text for teaching, but it is good to periodically read the book as a whole as you gain more understanding. You will notice that you pick up on more and more information.)

##### 2. OBSERVATION FOR A SPECIFIC TEXT: (This is what we will use as a format for each week’s homework lesson) The whole goal is to take notice of what the text actually says.

- a) Get a copy of the text you can mark up (we have provided one in this booklet).
- b) Read the entire passage you are studying a few times.
- c) Highlight repeated words.
- d) Underline any themes that are listed (e.g. “of the Spirit” or “to the flesh”).
- e) Circle transition words (e.g. therefore, but, if, then, likewise, etc.).
- f) Make note of any lists or questions that are asked in the text (e.g. what questions are asked in 8:31-32?).
- g) Make note of any comparisons or contrasts (e.g. spirit and flesh).
- h) Make note of any commands or truths that are stated (e.g. “There is no condemnation”).
- i) Mark any words that you are unsure of their meaning (you will use a dictionary to define them later).
- j) Use a “?” on any sentence or phrase that you have a question about (do not worry about finding the answer now—that is for interpretation).

**TRUST THE PROCESS.** This step is critical in preparing us to go deeper in our understanding of God’s Word. It guides us in the direction of study we need to put our efforts in to rightly divide the Word of God. With that in mind, we will then apply these steps to the text we are studying each week.

### 2) STEPS FOR INTERPRETATION: “*What did the text mean to the original audience?*”

Once we understand what it meant when it was written, we will understand what God intended for us to know.

- 1) Read the passage in different translations such as NASB, ESV, NKJV, etc. looking for any different words that give the passage greater understanding than the translation you normally use.
- 2) Look at the verses that come before the passage and the verses immediately following to understand the context of the verses you are studying.

3) Find out why the author of the passage saw the need to write this information out to be read and taught (e.g. correcting an error of doctrine, encouraging Christians who were suffering, recounting what Jesus did, taught, or how He lived while He was on earth, the beginning of the church, explaining how a sinner is saved, etc).

4) Look up and read the cross references (these Scripture references are found in the study note section if you are using a study Bible or in the center column of your Bible after the verse number). Using other verses in the Bible that use the same original word, theme or topic that is in your text of Scripture can bring greater understanding to how God defines these words.

3) Look up the definition of a key word in a Bible dictionary or in Strong's Concordance to help explain why the author of this passage used that particular word to convey his message to its original reader. In this study, we recommend using [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as a great online resource for these study tools, but there are several other resources to choose from.

3) Read trustworthy commentaries for greater explanation of a phrase, verse or passage.

### **3) QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION: "How should the truth of this passage change me?"**

We study Scripture and find its meaning SO THAT we can apply these truths to our everyday lives. The Word of God changes the hearts and lives of those who love God and have found salvation in Him. Here are some general questions to help you go from understanding the Scriptures to living them out in obedience unto God.

1) What aspect of God's character is revealed in this passage? How could I emulate this character trait as His child?

2) What do I learn about myself in light of this passage? (Is there a warning for me, is there a sin to flee, is there an attitude or behavior that is dishonoring to God?)

3) How should this truth about my sin change me? What steps can I actively take to confess, repent from sin and obey His Word?

There are many other questions that we can ask God through prayer once Scripture has exposed error in our thinking or living. Honestly and humbly go to Him at this point in your studying and ask Him to show you how to obey Him better.



# Introduction to the Book of Romans

## Theology and Foundation of the Book

### MacArthur Study Bible

#### Title

This epistle's name comes from its original recipients: the members of the church in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire (1:7).

#### Author and Date

No one disputes that the apostle Paul wrote Romans. Like his namesake, Israel's first king (Saul was Paul's Hebrew name; Paul his Greek name), Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5). He was also a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37; 22:25). Paul was born about the time of Christ's birth, in Tarsus (Acts 9:11), an important city (Acts 21:39) in the Roman province of Cilicia, located in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). He spent much of his early life in Jerusalem as a student of the celebrated rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Like his father before him, Paul was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6), a member of the strictest Jewish sect (cf. Phil. 3:5).

Miraculously converted while on his way to Damascus (ca. A.D. 33–34) to arrest Christians in that city, Paul immediately began proclaiming the gospel message (Acts 9:20). After narrowly escaping from Damascus with his life (Acts 9:23–25; 2 Cor. 11:32, 33), Paul spent 3 years in Nabatean Arabia, south and east of the Dead Sea (Gal. 1:17, 18). During that time, he received much of his doctrine as direct revelation from the Lord (Gal. 1:11, 12).

More than any other individual, Paul was responsible for the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. He made 3 missionary journeys through much of the Mediterranean world, tirelessly preaching the gospel he had once sought to destroy (Acts 26:9). After he returned to Jerusalem bearing an offering for the needy in the church there, he was falsely accused by some Jews (Acts 21:27–29), savagely beaten by an angry mob (Acts 21:30, 31), and arrested by the Romans. Though two Roman governors, Felix and Festus, as well as Herod Agrippa, did not find him guilty of any crime, pressure from the Jewish leaders kept Paul in Roman custody. After two years, the apostle exercised his right as a Roman citizen and appealed his case to Caesar. After a harrowing trip (Acts 27, 28), including a violent, two-week storm at sea that culminated in a shipwreck, Paul reached Rome. Eventually released for a brief period of ministry, he was arrested again and suffered martyrdom at Rome in ca. A.D. 65–67 (cf. 2 Tim. 4:6).

Though physically unimpressive (cf. 2 Cor. 10:10; Gal. 4:14), Paul possessed an inner strength granted him through the Holy Spirit's power (Phil. 4:13). The grace of God proved sufficient to provide for his every need (2 Cor. 12:9, 10), enabling this noble servant of Christ to successfully finish his spiritual race (2 Tim. 4:7).

Paul wrote Romans from Corinth, as the references to Phoebe (Rom. 16:1, Cenchrea was Corinth's port), Gaius (Rom. 16:23), and Erastus (Rom. 16:23)—all of whom were associated with Corinth—indicate. The apostle wrote the letter toward the close of his third missionary journey (most likely in A.D. 56), as he prepared to leave for Palestine with an offering for the poor believers in the Jerusalem church (Rom. 15:25). Phoebe was given the great responsibility of delivering this letter to the Roman believers (16:1, 2).

## Background and Setting

Rome was the capital and most important city of the Roman Empire. It was founded in 753 B.C., but is not mentioned in Scripture until NT times. Rome is located along the banks of the Tiber River, about 15 miles from the Mediterranean Sea. Until an artificial harbor was built at nearby Ostia, Rome's main harbor was Puteoli, some 150 miles away. In Paul's day, the city had a population of over one million people, many of whom were slaves. Rome boasted magnificent buildings, such as the Emperor's palace, the Circus Maximus, and the Forum, but its beauty was marred by the slums in which so many lived. According to tradition, Paul was martyred outside Rome on the Ostian Way during Nero's reign (A.D. 54–68).

Some of those converted on the Day of Pentecost probably founded the church at Rome (cf. [Acts 2:10](#)). Paul had long sought to visit the Roman church, but had been prevented from doing so ([1:13](#)). In God's providence, Paul's inability to visit Rome gave the world this inspired masterpiece of gospel doctrine. Paul's primary purpose in writing Romans was to teach the great truths of the gospel of grace to believers who had never received apostolic instruction. The letter also introduced him to a church where he was personally unknown, but hoped to visit soon for several important reasons: to edify the believers ([1:11](#)); to preach the gospel ([1:15](#)); and to get to know the Roman Christians, so they could encourage him ([1:12](#); [15:32](#)), better pray for him ([15:30](#)), and help him with his planned ministry in Spain ([15:28](#)).

Unlike some of Paul's other epistles (e.g., 1, 2 Cor., Gal.), his purpose for writing was not to correct aberrant theology or rebuke ungodly living. The Roman church was doctrinally sound, but, like all churches, it was in need of the rich doctrinal and practical instruction this letter provides.

## Historical and Theological Themes

Since Romans is primarily a work of doctrine, it contains little historical material. Paul does use such familiar OT figures as Abraham ([chap. 4](#)), David ([4:6–8](#)), Adam ([5:12–21](#)), Sarah ([9:9](#)), Rebekah ([9:10](#)), Jacob and Esau ([9:10–13](#)), and Pharaoh ([9:17](#)) as illustrations. He also recounts some of Israel's history ([chaps. 9–11](#)). [Chapter 16](#) provides insightful glimpses into the nature and character of the first-century church and its members.

The overarching theme of Romans is the righteousness that comes from God: the glorious truth that God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone through faith in Christ alone. [Chapters 1–11](#) present the theological truths of that doctrine, while [chaps. 12–16](#) detail its practical outworking in the lives of individual believers and the life of the whole church. Some specific theological topics include principles of spiritual leadership ([1:8–15](#)); God's wrath against sinful mankind ([1:18–32](#)); principles of divine judgment ([2:1–16](#)); the universality of sin ([3:9–20](#)); an exposition and defense of justification by faith alone ([3:21–4:25](#)); the security of salvation ([5:1–11](#)); the transference of Adam's sin ([5:12–21](#)); sanctification ([chaps. 6–8](#)); sovereign election ([chap. 9](#)); God's plan for Israel ([chap. 11](#)); spiritual gifts and practical godliness ([chap. 12](#)); the believer's responsibility to human government ([chap. 13](#)); and principles of Christian liberty ([14:1–15:12](#)).



## ROMANS 8

**1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4** so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is *at* enmity toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, **8** and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

**9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**12** So then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—**13** for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body, you will live. **14** For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received *the* Spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, also heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

**18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the anxious longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **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. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. **24** For in hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he *already* sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we eagerly wait for it.

**26** And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for

words; **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. **28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose. **29** Because 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; **30** and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.

**31** What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? **32** He who indeed did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction, or turmoil, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written,

“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;

WE WERE COUNTED AS SHEEP FOR *the* SLAUGHTER.”

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

**38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



*Week 1 Homework*  
***The Cure for Condemnation***  
*Romans 8:1-4*

Welcome to your first week in our study of Romans 8! Last week we began our study with an introductory yet foundational look at who the Holy Spirit is, His role in redemptive history and the vital role He has in the life of every believer as they grow in holiness. Now we will begin to study the great truths of our salvation in Christ as it pertains to our standing before God and how the Spirit practically works to conform us into the image of Christ. This will lead us to the steadfast truth of God's sustaining power and love that keeps us to the very end. This week we will specifically study the bedrock truth that those who are united in Christ through faith are not condemned by the law of the Spirit, but actually set free from the law of sin and death. What a beautiful and comforting doctrine that should give us great hope in our struggle against sin along the path to holiness.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Thank Him for giving you this privilege and opportunity to know Him more through His Word in this Bible study.
- As you begin your homework for the week, ask the Lord to bring clarity and understanding of how you can believe these wonderful truths in this passage.
- Ask God to open your mind to how you view His grace as it has been extended to you.
- Examine your heart to see if you need to confess any sin.

Read Romans 1-8 this week. Try reading it in two or three chapters at a time. For this Bible study, we will be using only chapter 8, but this will help you understand the flow and context of the letter to these believers. We will be looking at Romans 8:1-4 to answer this week's questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans 8 provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. For the entire chapter:

- Highlight the word "Spirit" in one specific color.
- Highlight the word "Christ," including any use of "Him" or "He" that refers to Christ in a different color.
- Highlight the word "God" in a different color.
- Circle the word "flesh" or any variation of this word. How many times is it used in verses 1-4?

2. (a) How does Paul begin verse 1? (b) What have you learned to observe about what this word is usually indicating when it is in any passage of Scripture?

3. (a) What does Paul say is not present in those he is writing to? (b) How does he distinguish who he is referring to? (verse 1)

4. In verse 2, (a) how is the law described? (b) What has the law done for the believer?

5. In verse 3, (a) what did God do that the Law was unable to do? (b) How did He choose to do it?
6. In verse 4, (a) what reason is stated for why God did this? (b) At the end of this verse, what does it say about how this is fulfilled in us?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. (a) As we look at what condemnation means, what words or phrases does this subject bring to mind? (b) What has caused you to feel under condemnation?
2. (a) Look up Strong's G2631 for the word "condemnation." (b) What is the one way that it is used in Scripture? (c) Read Romans 5:16-18. (d) What caused the result of condemnation? (e) What is listed as the contrast to this condemnation?
3. (a) Read 7:22-25. (b) Why does he bring it up in 8:1; what is the link between this statement and the verses at the end of chapter 7? (c) How can you make sure you remember "there is now no condemnation" the next time?
4. (a) Look up Strong's G3552 for "law" and refresh your memory on the definition of the law in this context. (b) Now look up G4151 for the "Spirit" and read through the list of definitions to gain a sense of what this Greek word entails. (c) Romans 8:2 says "the law of the Spirit"—what does this mean?



5. (a) Read John 15:1-8. (b) What is the analogy that John is using to illustrate this union with Christ? (c) Now look up G3306 for the word “abide” and write down how this describes our union with Christ once we are saved. (d) What does this mean in your relationship with Christ?
6. If we are in Christ, there is no condemnation left for us, because God condemned sin in Christ. Christ bore the wrath of God that we deserved and condemned sin by fully paying its penalty. (a) How does the Bible describe the concept of God as a God of wrath who judges sin? Read Genesis 19 for a vivid illustration of this. (b) What does it do to your spirit if you think about enduring endless years of torment and darkness?
7. Now read the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19–31, which speaks of the judgment of God and serious consequences for the unrepentant sinner. What conclusions can you draw from these passages about how God deals with sin?
8. How do Paul’s words in Romans 8:1 give hope and confidence to the redeemed sinner?
9. This status of no condemnation affects how we think about and view our sin. (a) Should we ever have feelings of guilt when we sin? Why or why not? (b) How should we think and feel about our sin? (c) Does our status of having no condemnation belittle our sin?
10. (a) Why does Paul mention the flesh four times in this passage? (b) How does this connect to our past condemnation and our current freedom in Christ?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. Do you think of God's wrath and condemnation as something you have been freed from or have you forgotten what you have been saved from?
2. How does this view affect your praise to God that you are not under this condemnation any longer?
3. (a) What part did you play in removing the condemnation you once experienced? (b) What role did Christ play in accomplishing your freedom? (c) How could remembering this change your attitude toward sin?
4. What biblical truth from this passage should I think of when I have doubts in my standing before God and am unsure of His forgiveness for my sin?
5. How does this truth change your worship of God throughout the day?

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*Week 2 Homework*  
***The Mind Determines the Life***  
*Romans 8:5-8*

It is no surprise that what our minds are focused on will determine how we live. In our previous passage, we saw that God sent Jesus Christ as an offering so that the righteous requirement of the Law would be fulfilled in us. The reason that was necessary was not only for salvation, but that we might “walk” or live out this life in the Spirit and no longer in the flesh as we did before our salvation. We were redeemed to be transformed into the image of Christ and to be holy. The greatest redirection of our lives after salvation comes through our mindset. This is impossible without the work of the Spirit. This passage uses the subject of the mind to reveal that what our thoughts, affections and emotions are “set on” will determine if we are living according to the world (the flesh), or according to the Spirit that dwells in the life of a believer. In this lesson, may God reveal to you the responsibility we have to battle for the victory of the mind under the direction of the Holy Spirit so that we are able to please God.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take time to thank God for giving us a written account of biblical truth so we can be confident in our salvation.
- As you begin your homework for the week, reflect upon what you learned about your union with Christ and your freedom from condemnation before God. Commit to meditate on this truth this week.
- Pray for a tenderness in your conscience so that you might receive the Word and be willing to change.

Read the entire passage of Romans 8. Try reading it in two different translations. We will be using Romans 8:5-8 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

For verses 5-8, please make the following observations:

1. In verse 5, what are the two kinds of mindsets that we can have?
2. In verse 6, what does each of the two mindsets produce?
3. (a) In verse 7, which mindset is listed? (b) What is the attitude it produces toward God? (c) What causes this attitude? (d) What is the capacity of this mind before God?
4. (a) In verse 8, what is the end result for someone whose mind is in the flesh?  
(b) Mark these words on your Romans text in this book: “mind,” “flesh,” “Spirit,” “set,” and “God.”

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. (a) As we begin this section, do you believe that what you think affects how you live? (b) Would you say you are currently "setting your mind" on the flesh or the Spirit? (c) How can you tell which one you are following?
  
2. (a) Look up G5426 for the word "mind." (b) How does this deepen your knowledge of what our minds do? (c) Have you considered that God created your mind for a specific purpose? (d) How has sin affected this?
  
3. Look up G4561 for the word "flesh." Why do you think this is the word that Paul uses in contrast to the Spirit?
  
4. (a) Is flesh always a negative term in Scripture? (b) Look up the following verses and make note of what it says to describe "flesh." Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 14:38; John 1:14; John 3:6; John 6:55-56; Romans 6:19; I Corinthians 1:29. This is all the same Greek word but used in different contexts. (c) After reading these, what is Paul warning the Roman believers of when he addresses the mind set on the flesh?
  
5. (a) Look up Ephesians 2:15-16 and James 4:4. (b) What do these verses show us about our hostility as enemies of God? (c) Do you believe the Scriptures that say unbelievers are enemies of God? (d) According to James, what is the mindset of the enemy of God?

6. This passage tells us that the mind that is set on the Spirit is “life and peace.” (a) What does this mean for the believer? (b) How are these two things seen in the life of a Christian?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) Does this passage give you hope that you have the ability to change your thinking? (b) Do you believe that you have a choice in where you set your mind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. (a) Do you want to be friends with the world? (b) Are your thoughts mostly on the cares of this world, or are they thoughts about pleasing God? (c) Does worry or praise of God consume your thoughts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. (a) What are specific ways you can set your mind on the Spirit? (b) Are you willing to labor to set your mind on the things of God? (c) How? (d) What can you change today to make this happen?

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*Week 3 Homework*  
***Those Who Belong to God***  
*Romans 8:9-13*

One of the greatest longings in this life is to know where you came from and who you belong to. As people who are created in the image of God, I can't help but believe that God Himself placed a specific longing within us that only He could satisfy. The Bible makes it clear that we were created to know God and thus, worship Him as the One True God. But there is also a personal and intimate element to this desire. We belong to God. This passage sets before us a dual description of the character and nature of the child of God. On one hand, we are not in the flesh, even though we know firsthand that the flesh is in us. However, just as true is the fact that we are in the Spirit and we know this to be true because of our position in Christ. We have union with Him and so we also know that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. This is wonderful and comforting news to the believer who now knows that there can be victory over sin and the power of the Holy Spirit to live a life that is holy and pleasing before the Lord. The great truth is that you belong to God and therefore, you now have this new pursuit and will be enabled by the Holy Spirit to strive toward righteousness.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take a moment to quiet your heart before God and thank Him for showing us how to live through His word.
- As you begin your homework for the week, ask Him for a desire to glean from this chapter what He wants you to know about the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.
- Confess any type of sinful behavior or thinking that might hinder your understanding of His Word.
- Pray for God to reveal how you can remember these truths of your union with Christ.

Read Romans 8 in its entirety. We will be using verses 9-13 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. Why does Paul start with the word “however” in verse 9?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Circle “But if” each time it is used. This is indicating that Paul is making a contrast to explain a truth these believers needed to know. Make a list of each contrast.

3. Mark each time “life,” “living”, and “alive” are used in your text of Scripture.
4. Mark each time “flesh”, “body”, and “dead” are used in your text of Scripture.
5. Notice the contrast Paul is making.  
Mark each time “Spirit” is used and draw an arrow to what specific Spirit is mentioned.  
(e.g. Spirit—>of God).

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong’s Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. Notice the various mentions of God, Christ and Spirit. What does this tell you about the work of God in a believer’s life?
2. (a) Read the passage and write down what it says about who belongs to God. (b) What specific things are described for someone who is Christ’s?
3. (a) What is “the body” that Paul is referring to in verse 10? (b) How is this different from the spiritual life? (c) What is happening to our bodies? (d) According to Romans 6:23, why is this happening?
4. (a) Read John 14:16-17. Jesus is about to leave His disciples as He goes to the cross and will eventually be resurrected and ascend into Heaven. (b) How does He decide to prepare them and encourage them with who He will send to help them? (c) In essence, what is Jesus telling them they will have when He is gone?
5. (a) Read verse 20 and 23. (b) What truth does Jesus tell His disciples? (c) What conclusions can we draw from this for us today?
6. (a) In Romans 8:12, Paul begins with “so then.” What does he tell the believers as a conclusion to the

previous verses? (b) Is this encouraging to you in your battle against sin?

7. (a) In verse 13, what does he say you are doing if you are living according to the Spirit? (b) What does “putting to death the practices of the body” look like in your life? (c) Have you ever thought of it in this way?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) Do you really believe that you can overcome the desires of your flesh and live in the Spirit?  
(b) Have you ever decided to not give in to your desires in order to obey the Spirit or just to accomplish a specific goal?
  
2. (a) How do you specifically get discouraged by the constant temptations in this world to desire things that are displeasing to God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Confess to God one specific and practical area that you have not walked in the Spirit. Commit to real repentance for this sin and write out Romans 8:12 as a reminder that you are not under obligation to live according to the flesh. Pray constantly that you would remember this amazing truth.

[illegible]

*Week 4 Homework*  
***Children and Heirs of God***  
*Romans 8:14-17*

In the previous lesson, we saw that one of the bedrock truths of Christianity is that believers have the Spirit of God within them from the moment they are born again into Christ. While we still have the outer physical body that is guaranteed to die, we have the Spirit alive in us that is continually transforming us into the image of Christ our Savior. This life in the Spirit enables us to have an eternal perspective and look at things with new eyes. This week, we will be reminded that not only do we possess the Spirit, but the Spirit has a hold on us that is necessary for us to be empowered to obey and have victory over sin. One of the most glorious realities for a believer in Christ is that we have been adopted by God, brought into His family and now bear His image and walk in a way that is led by the Spirit in the paths of righteousness. After being born into the family of God, the believer now possesses all that is necessary to do the will of the Father, just as Christ did. May we be encouraged and spurred on to emulate our Heavenly Father.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take a moment and praise the Lord that He has made you aware of your need for His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Thank Him for showing you how to apply His word. Look over your application questions from last week and see if you have seen a change in your attitude toward sin and righteousness.
- Pray for a tenderness in your conscience so that you may receive the Word and be willing to change.

Read all of Romans 8. By now you are becoming familiar with the flow of the whole chapter. We will be using verses 14-17 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. (a) In verse 14, who does it say are sons of God? (b) Who is doing the leading?
  
2. (a) In verse 15 what does Paul say we have NOT received? (b) Where would that have led us?
  
3. (a) What does he say we HAVE received? (b) What does this cause us to do?
  
4. What does the Spirit do with our spirit?

5. (a) In verse 17, what two things does Paul call the believer? (b) What two things are we to share in with Christ because of these realities?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?**

1. Why do you think Paul uses the image of slavery when speaking to these Christians in Rome?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. (a) Paul writes that we are “led by the Spirit of God.” Look up G71 for the word “led.” (b) In applying this definition to this context, what is the picture that Paul is giving of the Spirit’s working in those that belong to God as His children? (c) Is it possible not to follow His leading? (d) Are you allowing the Spirit to lead you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In verse 15, Paul contrasts the spirit of slavery with the Spirit of adoption. Read Galatians 4:1-9. How does this passage explain what God has done in making us His adopted children?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read Galatians 5:1 and compare that to what Paul tells the readers in Romans 8:14. Why does he warn them about returning to this spiritual slavery?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Think of the message of the gospel throughout Romans. Write a biblical explanation (look up verses to support your answer) of what the gospel does in freeing us from sin and why we should not return.

6. (a) What is the heartfelt cry of God's children to Him through the Spirit? (b) How does this cry differ from how God is usually addressed in the Old Testament?
7. Look up G5 "Abba" and G3962 for "Father." What are the differences?
8. What does it mean to be an heir of God and a fellow heir of Christ?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) Do you cry to God as your caring Father who has brought you into His family? (b) Do you trust Him as a loving and providing Father?
2. (a) How do you value the fact that you are a child of God? (b) What changes did you make in your life since you took His family name?

3. What is one way you can change your schedule to becoming a more committed family member to the family of God?

4. Are you willing to suffer with Christ so that you may be glorified with Him? What would that look like to you?



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*Week 5 Homework*  
***Today's Suffering and Tomorrow's Glory***  
*Romans 8:18*

Elisabeth Elliot once wrote a book titled “Suffering is Never for Nothing,” and for the believer in Christ this is absolutely true. Our greatest need of salvation was accomplished at the cost of suffering, and it continues to be the means by which we are transformed into the holiness that is required to live eternally with God. Christ has paved the narrow road with an example of suffering according to the will of the Father. We must take heart and cannot lose it, for throughout Scripture He reminds us that the way to identify with Christ is to suffer. It draws our hearts away from the world and fixes it on the hope of heaven and the future glory that awaits us. This week we will look at just one verse but one that reminds us that all the suffering and trials in this life pale in comparison to the glory that is to be revealed to us. May you find great comfort in this verse as we long for what is found in Christ in the present future.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take time to meditate upon the truth that He is using suffering in your life for a purpose.
- Take time to repent for any lack of trust you have had in the fact that He is able and willing to endure.
- Take time to praise Him that He has a future planned for us.

Read Romans 8. We will be using verse 18 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. (a) What is Paul considering in this verse? (b) When are these taking place?

2. What is his conclusion?

3. What is he comparing?

4. When will this take place?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. How would you define suffering as you have known it in this life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Look up G3804 for the word "suffering." What does this word mean in the context of this verse?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. (a) How have you viewed suffering in relation to your faith in Christ? (b) How did Paul seem to view suffering in light of Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read II Corinthians 1:5-7. What do these verses say is the companion of suffering for Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Read Philippians 3:10. What two things does Paul desire in knowing Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Read Colossians 1:24. How did Paul respond to his suffering and what was his perspective on what this affliction was doing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. (a) Look up G1391 for the word "glory" and find the definition that fits this context. (b) What is this glory referring to when he says "to be revealed to us?"

8. Read II Corinthians 4:17. What perspective should this give us when we are overwhelmed with the things of this life?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. How does God want you to view suffering as a Christian?
2. Do you suffer well when trials and afflictions come your way, or do you complain, worry and get angry with your situation?
3. (a) Do you believe that God is sovereign over suffering? (b) What verses can you memorize to focus our mind on looking ahead to glory in those moments of distress?
4. Is God pleased with how you handle the suffering He has brought into your life or allowed to affect you?

[illegible]

*Week 6 Homework*  
***The Anxious Longing of Creation***  
*Romans 8:19-22*

It is no surprise that we are pilgrims on a great journey in an extremely broken world. The world is not what it was originally meant to be, and the signs are evident in every facet of our everyday lives. As we long for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to suffer and diligently pursue the path of holiness that God has designated for us. However, our passage this week makes it clear that we are not the only ones subjected to and affected by sin. The creation of God that was spoken into existence and formed from nothing has been marred by the same sin that was committed by Adam and Eve, which threw the entire human race and all of creation under the penalty of death. As we long to be set free from the corruption of sin, so too, the creation itself anxiously desires to be redeemed. Its only hope lies in our greatest hope, the revealing of the sons of God.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take time to meditate upon the truth that He has led you to understand your sin and the path to life in Christ.
- Take time to confess any lack of trust you have that He is able and willing to one day restore all things to its proper order in Him.
- Take time to praise Him for who He is.

Read Romans 8. We will be using verses 19-22 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. (a) How is the longing of creation described in verse 19? (b) What is it longing for?
2. Who does it say subjected creation to futility?
3. In verse 21, what is the hope for creation?
4. In verse 22, what is the image that is drawn of creation in its current state?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. For context of this passage, read Genesis 3. Make a list of all the consequences that God gave in the curse for Adam and Eve's disobedience.
2. How does this help you understand the curse upon all of creation and not just mankind?
3. Read Genesis 8:21. What is God's response to Noah after the flood when he offers a burnt offering to Him?
4. How have you seen the effects of sin in creation? Name a few specific signs.
5. (a) Read Revelation 21:1. What does it reveal that John saw? (b) Look up G2537 for "new" and 3772 for "heaven" and G1093 for "earth." (c) After looking at the meaning of these words, can you imagine what this will be like?
6. What conclusion can you draw from these verses and the words that Paul used to convey the present suffering and the future glory?
7. (a) Read Psalm 19:1. (b) What does this tell us about creation? (c) What should our response be to God when we behold this?



**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) How has your view on the curse of sin affected your worldview? (b) Have you considered how much sin has changed everything that God created?

2. (a) Do you long for Christ to come back and make all things new? (b) If not, why?

3. Are you as eager as creation to see Christ return?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

*Week 7 Homework*  
***Eager Expectation of Hope***  
*Romans 8:23-27*

In the midst of this sinful and broken world we live in, the greatest need for all mankind is hope. Forgiveness for sin and a reconciliation with God is what is most needed, but without a hope that these things are really available to the sinner, there is no expectation of change. In a world where hope is set on temporal things such as “hoping you get the job” or “hoping things work out,” the light of the gospel shines greatest in the darkness of despair. For the believer who is already united with Christ and possesses the Spirit as a helper, there is an eager expectation that accompanies this hope that we have. An excitement and longing that is unique because our hope is grounded in something that is absolutely sure. This hope is what awakened the gospel within our hearts and it is the motivation to persevere when we do not understand the way or the means that God is using to work His will in our lives. We will see in our lesson this week that the Holy Spirit is aiding us in this hope as He intercedes for us according to the will of God. May your hope be fixed on the hope that will one day come to fruition as we are reunited with Christ for all eternity.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Praise Him for being God, who lacks nothing yet desires that we would know Him.
- Take time to examine your life and ask Him if there is anything hindering your hope in Him.
- Commit to being aware of His provision of the gospel and giving you a hope of one day being with Him. Thank Him for drawing you to Him in saving faith.

Read Romans 8. We will be using verses 23-27 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. In verse 23, what is Paul referring back to when he writes, “And not only this?”
2. What does he say we possess?
3. (a) What are we eagerly waiting for? (b) What will we receive when this happens?
4. (a) In verse 24, how were we saved? (b) How does it describe this?
5. What does Paul say is the manner with which we will wait for this hope?
6. In verse 26, how does the Spirit help us in our weakness?

7. Who is the “He” referring to who searches the heart?

8. How does He intercede for the saints?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong’s Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. (a) How would you define hope? (b) What are the things that come to your mind when you think of this concept of hope?

2. (a) Look up G1680 for the word “hope.” What can you learn from this biblical definition that is not usually thought of when we use this word in our language? (b) How does this apply to our passage?

3. Read the following verses and write down what Scripture tells us about hope.

Romans 12:12

Romans 15:13

Galatians 5:5

Ephesians 1:18

Ephesians 2:12

Ephesians 4:4

I Thessalonians 4:13

I Thessalonians 5:8

4. Our hope is not an aimless pursuit, but one that has a fixed focus on what God has told us that we should hope for. Read Titus 1:2; Titus 2:13; and Titus 3:7. What specific things are we instructed to put our hope in?

5. Read Hebrews 6:11 and 18. In what type of manner are we to pursue this hope?
6. (a) In verse 23 of our passage, what two things are we groaning for and eagerly expecting?  
(b) Why would we long for this? (c) Do you long for these things in our Christian life, or are you just wanting to go to heaven? (d) Why do you have this perspective?
7. We are to hope in something we cannot see. (a) Look up G991 for the word “see” and write out the definitions that pertain to this word in verses 24-25. (b) How is this different than walking by faith?
8. (a) What is intercession? Look up G1793 for the word “intercession.” (b) What is the picture here of what Christ does for believers? (c) Do you believe this truth that Christ is doing this for you, especially in times of suffering?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) Do you have hope today that Christ will return and make things new? If not, why? (b) Are you too consumed with this world and the worries of this life to be aware of Christ’s return?

2. (a) If you are looking forward to His return, is it so that you can be relieved of the circumstances in our life, or are you eager to be with Him for all eternity? (b) How could you change your thinking in this area?

3. (a) What are your thoughts about Christ interceding for you and the Spirit of God helping you in your weakness? (b) How can you be more grateful for this provision? (c) Have you utilized these means that God has provided for you? (d) Can you use them daily? (e) What will you do this week to be more aware of this grace He has given you?

[illegible]

[illegible]



*Week 8 Homework*  
***Proof of Providence***  
*Romans 8:28*

The pervasive impact of sin is evident to us every day. However, we know as believers that because of Christ, we have hope that all that we endure in this life is for our good and according to God's perfect will. It is a verse like Romans 8:28 that brings this chaotic and somewhat incomprehensible view of this life into laser focus, giving clarity and purpose to our time here on earth. A Christian can only rest securely once they realize that there is a providential plan that God will bring to pass, and that His goodness is extended to His children regardless of the circumstances. His ways cannot be thwarted, nor His promises remain unfulfilled. I pray that you will take the time this week to think deeply upon the wonderful truth that this one verse reveals about God's intention for His people. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you can confidently say as Paul does, "we know that all things work together for good, to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." May you be astounded by His goodness and His plan.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take a moment to thank God for having a plan for your life.
- As you begin your homework for the week, ask Him for a desire to glean from this verse what He wants you to know about His goodness.
- Confess any sin in your life that might hinder your fellowship with Him and your understanding of His Word. Be honest with God about your struggle with trusting Him and His ways.

Read Ephesians 1:3-12 as you begin your study. We will be using Romans 8:28 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. Who is the "we" referring to?

2. What do we "know?"

3. What defines the people Paul is talking about? What differentiates them from others?

## **Interpretation: What does the text mean?**

Two things are sure in this life: that things do not always happen according to our plans, and that clarity of why things happen usually comes later when we see the results. Take a moment to think about the various times we read in the Bible of situations in the lives of people that God used to bring about His purposes. Here are just a few examples from Scripture of seemingly bad situations turning into good for believers.

1. Lot's choice of the good land let Abraham take the land God really prepared for Him.
2. Joseph being sold into slavery and unjustly thrown into prison ultimately placed him as second in command in Egypt, which God orchestrated to deliver His people from bondage.
3. Satan's persecution of Job, which God used to teach Job many valuable lessons.
4. Herod's threat on the life of Jesus, which led to His family fleeing to Egypt and then fulfilling the prophecy about the Messiah coming out of Egypt.

This week we will use two well-known accounts in Scripture to illustrate this biblical truth.

**The testimony of Joseph:** We often hear the wonderful ending of God's purpose in Joseph's life, but take time to read the whole account and record the details of the trials and suffering that he endured. Think about how long this account takes in his life. While on one hand, this turn of events led to Israel's captivity in Egypt, it was God's will that they be put into slavery so that He might deliver them. It was His desire to show His mighty works and reveal who He was to His people. In the whole plan of redemption, God needed to give them the picture of slavery so that they could be redeemed and bought back as a picture of what Christ would do for the sinner. Read Genesis 37, 39-45.

1. Record details of the trials and suffering Joseph endured.
2. (a) Was God concerned about Joseph and his comfort throughout that time, or was God working on a much greater purpose? (b) What was the greater purpose that God had that affected His people long after Joseph?

3. Was God good in His purposes to Joseph? Explain your answer based on the account you read.

**The testimony of Peter:** We know that Peter had a front-row seat to the life of Christ, and while his examples of failure are shorter in length, the impact of them is great. Scripture reveals to us the actions and attitudes of Peter as he is called, taught, corrected and reconciled with Christ.

1. Read the following verses and make note of how these circumstances in Peter's life would serve the greater good not only in his life, but the impact they would have on the gospel, the Church, and how God used difficult situations to teach and equip him to be useful later.

Matthew 14:22-36

Mark 9

Matthew 16:13-18

Luke 22:55-62

John 21:15-17

Acts 10

2. (a) After reading these various situations God placed Peter in throughout his life, how did they show the goodness of God's gospel plan? (b) Do you think Peter grew in his understanding and trust in the Lord Jesus?

3. (a) How does this help you understand the way God works to accomplish His purposes? (b) Do you see His goodness in this process?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) How would you define "good?" (b) Do you believe that God has been good to you throughout your life? If so, how?

2. What have you done in your life to reflect that you understand that God is good in all circumstances?

3. How can your reading of Scripture encourage your heart and mind to remember that God will fulfill His purposes?
4. What is one way you can change your thinking to remember that God is working things together for your good?
5. Take time to thank Him for as many good things as you can think of. Spend quality time reflecting on the things that God orchestrated in bringing you to this point of knowing Him.

[illegible]

*Week 9 Homework*  
***Purposeful Calling***  
*Romans 8:28*

Last week, we took a look at the lives of two flawed but faithful people who demonstrated God's continuous work in their lives that yielded two key things: God's goodness and God's purpose. This is an encouraging example to be able to see God work in the life of someone through various circumstances and trials that seem mundane, but yield fruit for the kingdom of God. This verse reminds us that this truth applies to all people who love God. These specific people are ones who are "called according to His purpose." This week, we will begin to look at this doctrine that gives great confidence to the believer in Christ who knows they have been called by the one true God, and that it was His purpose to do so.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Thank Him for giving you this privilege and opportunity to know Him more through His word in this Bible study.
- As you begin your homework for the week, ask the Lord to prepare your heart to understand His word by opening your mind and heart to what He reveals about Himself.
- Pray for the other women in this Bible study, that they would know God more through this study.

Read Romans 7 and 8 to reflect on what you have learned. We will continue to use Romans 8:28 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. Who is the One who is working in this verse?
2. What is the scope of the things that Paul addresses?
3. (a) What are the verbs in this verse? (b) Who are these actions referring to?
4. According to this verse, who are the ones that love God?
5. What are they called to?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. (a) How do we know something? Look up G1492 for “know” and write out the biblical use of this word. (b) How can this explain how we can know the truth of this verse?
  
2. This verse states that God “causes” something. (a) What does He cause? Look up G4903 for “causes,” and apply that to your understanding of how God is working in this way. (b) What is God working in partnership with?
  
3. This promise is not for everyone. (a) Look up G2822 for “called” and put into your own words what this means based on the biblical definition. (b) Who are “the called,” based on this?
  
4. Look up the following verses that use this word. Make note of who this adjective is used for.  
  
I Corinthians 1:1-2  
  
I Corinthians 1:24  
  
Jude 1:1  
  
Revelation 17:14



5. Look up the following verses and compare what Scripture says about:

The purposes of God (spiritual):

Romans 9:11

Ephesians 1:11

Ephesians 3:11

2 Timothy 1:9

Human purposes (material and spiritual things):

Acts 27:13

Acts 11:23

2 Timothy 3:10

6. (a) How would you define the purpose of God based on what you know of Scripture? (b) What is His purpose for you?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) Do you believe that God has “called” you? (b) If so, what evidence is there that confirms this?

2. How should the knowledge that you have been “called” by God change your perspective on life?

3. In what ways are you aware that God is working all things together for your good? List specific ways.

4. Give an example of how He has shown you that something difficult was actually God’s goodness to you. Share with your table so that you might encourage other women with His goodness.

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*Week 10 Homework*  
***The Perfect Progression of Salvation***  
*Romans 8:29-30*

Most things are brought about by a progression. Very rarely does something just appear out of nowhere, even if we are not able to see each stage of change. From the planting of a seed to enjoying a piece of produce, there are many things that have to take place in a specific progression according to how God created it. There is no difference when it comes to the salvation of a soul. What a gift that God allows us to peer into the great abyss of salvation and read, study and comprehend just a taste of the glorious plan of redemption. In our study this week, we will see the perfect progression of our salvation and witness the heart of God that instigated and brought to fruition the amazing work of reconciling sinners to Himself. It all began with the predetermined love of God and will end with a glorification that will exalt the One who completed His perfect plan. You will see this week that the Lord is our salvation!

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Praise Him for the privilege of learning how your salvation became a reality.
- As you begin your homework for the week, ask the Lord to help you understand a truth about your salvation in a deeper way than you presently do.
- Spend time worshiping Him for thinking of you before the world was even created.

Read Romans 1-5 to be reminded of your need for salvation and the way that God saves sinners. We will continue to use Romans 8:29-30 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. (a) What is the first word Paul begins with? (b) What is he referring to?
  
2. (a) List the progression of what God did. (b) After each part of the progression list why He did it (example: predestined—>why? How?)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Who is the one who is responsible for doing this?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. As you look at the listed elements of salvation, did you realize that there were so many facets to bring us to salvation?
2. Look up the following words and write key definitions that will bring greater understanding to each part:

G4267 "foreknew"

G4309 "predestined"

G4832 "conformed"

G2564 "called"

G1344 "justified"

G1392 "glorified"

3. Using the list on the previous page, in your own words write what each word means when it comes to your salvation. Think through how this applies to your own salvation.
4. (a) Read Acts 9, the account of the Apostle Paul's conversion. Were all of the stages of his salvation in Christ evident in this account? (b) Based on what each one means, how can we know them to be true?
5. At what moment of this progression are you actually now a believer in Christ?
6. (a) Look up the following verses that use the word for "glorified" seen in our passage. Who is being glorified in these verses? (b) Also, list what has caused this glorifying.
- Matthew 5:16
- Matthew 6:2
- Matthew 15:31
- Luke 2:20
- John 12:28
- John 15:8

7. What does it mean that “He who justified, He also glorified?”

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. Have you been conformed to His image since you have been saved?

2. If you answered no to that question, you have reason to question if you are truly saved. If that is the case, please talk to your Table Leader or myself to help you examine this subject.

3. In what ways does your life bring glory to God?

4. What does it mean to you that God has gone to great personal lengths to bring you to salvation?



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*Week 11 Homework*  
***God's Loyalty and Protection***  
*Romans 8:31-34*

When I think back on times of great distress or need, my heart is immediately drawn to Psalm 23 and the beginning line which begins to calm my desperate spirit ... “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” A shepherd isn’t a warrior, but in times of lack we need to be reminded that there is One who is loyal and a fierce defender of the weak. This is exactly what our Great Shepherd provides in the life of His children. For those who have such a great and complete salvation like we learned about last week, we are not just given words of encouragement from our God, but bedrock truth that He is for us and we cannot be forsaken or overtaken. It is nothing of our doing, but the simple fact that we belong to God and He has proven His loyalty to us by offering His Son to live, die and intercede on our behalf. May we outwardly and enthusiastically rejoice that our God is for His people.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Praise Him for the protection He has given you throughout your life.
- Read Psalm 23 slowly and meditate on its truths about our Lord.
- Offer thanksgiving for His provision in all circumstances.

Read Romans 8. We will continue to use Romans 8:31-34 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. Paul poses a number of questions in this passage to build an argument. List each question and then write the answer that Paul gives, even if it is in a question form.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. List what God has done in these verses.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Now list what Christ has done in these verses.

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. What does it mean that God is for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. (a) Have you ever felt like God was not for you? (b) Why did you feel that way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. List three ways that God has demonstrated that He is for you. Consult Psalm 27 or 56 for help.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. (a) How are we to live out the truth that "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (b) If God is for us, does that mean we are to just sit back and wait for Him to do something?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. (a) Read Joshua 11:5-9. What did God promise to do? (b) What were the Israelites to do? (c) Discuss the balance between trust and action.

6. (a) Read Joshua 11:10-12 and 20-23. What was the result of obeying God? (b) What does this tell us about God directing us in exactly what to do while giving us the strength to accomplish it? (c) What part of our Romans 8:31-34 passage does this refer to?

7. Read Isaiah 50:8-9. How does this verse along with Romans 8:33-34 give you confidence?

8. If Satan still “prowls around like a roaring lion” (1 Peter 5:8), why is he unable to bring a charge against God’s elect or condemn them? Read Colossians 2:13-15, Hebrews 2:14 and Mark 3:27.

**Application: How should this change me?**

God is “for” his children. His provision for us is complete. We are certain that He will give us all we need. Meditate on this week’s verses.

1. How can you grow in your confidence of God’s perfect provision for us?

2. How can you help your sisters in Christ live with this kind of assurance?

3. How does Christ's intercession for you give you confidence that God will continue to uphold you?

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*Week 12 Homework*  
***God's Irrevocable Love***  
*Romans 8:35-39*

I love how the Apostle Paul has a gift of asking questions that get right to the heart of the matter. I can imagine that after the preceding verses we looked at last week, Paul was inspired to end this section of the letter by continuing to lay the foundation for their theology on salvation with the overarching theme of love—specifically the love that God has for His people. With the doctrines of God’s grace so comprehensively laid out through this book thus far, what a strong yet tender way to end this topic of God’s loyalty and protection but with the added emphasis on the love of Christ that will never let us go. Ever. After beginning the chapter by explaining that we are no longer under condemnation, Paul brings this full circle by telling his readers and us that “in all things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.” As the precious hymn so aptly says, “O Love that will not let me go” is the Love that purchased us and will sustain us through all eternity.

**PREPARING YOUR HEART:**

- Take a moment to quiet your heart before God and think upon His love for you.
- As you begin your homework for the week, ask Him for a desire to glean from this chapter what He wants you to know about His love in your life.
- Confess any type of sinful behavior or thinking that might hinder your understanding of His Word.
- Pray for God to reveal how you can remember these truths of His love for you.

For the last time, read Romans 8 in its entirety. We will be using verses 35-39 to answer the homework questions.

**Observation: What does the text say?** (In this section, use the printed text of Romans provided for you in this booklet for markings.)

1. (a) What is Paul’s question about love? (b) List the eight things he says will not affect God’s love for the believer.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  - 8.
2. What is the Scripture reference for this quote in verse 36?
3. (a) In verse 37, how does he say we conquer? (b) Through who?

4. Make a list of all the things Paul says will not separate us from God's love.

5. Where is this love of God?

**Interpretation: What does the text mean?** In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a Strong's Concordance for some of these questions. You can Google it or use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. (a) As a review as we end our study, what was Paul's major theme in verses 1-13? (b) What was his theme in verses 17-30? (b) What relationship do verses 31-39 have to the rest of the chapter? (c) What topics has Paul dealt with in verses 31-34?

2. Think about the list Paul gives in verse 35. Why might people facing such difficulties think they are separated from God's love?

3. (a) What purpose does verse 36 serve in Paul's argument? (b) Why does Paul talk about being sheep set aside for slaughter? (c) How would this bring comfort to those who are suffering?

4. The quotation in verse 36 is from Psalm 44:22. (a) Read the entire Psalm. (b) Summarize each of the following sections of the Psalm in a sentence:

verses 1-8:

verses 9-16:

verses 17-22:

verses 23-26:

5. Why does Paul quote this Psalm at the end of Romans 8?
6. In verse 37, what is Paul referring to by the phrase “in all these things?”
7. In 37, Paul is still answering the question, “Who will separate us from the love of God?” What role does God’s love for us play in this verse?
8. Think about the list Paul gives us in verses 38 and 39. (a) List those things that cause you to become fearful. (b) Are they included in Paul’s list?
9. Finally, look back at verse 1. (a) What parallel exists between the first and last verses of this chapter? (b) What keyword is used in both?

**Application: How should this change me?**

1. (a) How has the love of God changed you? (b) What are the differences in your life between before salvation and now?

2. (a) Have you become accustomed to the love of God to the point that you take it for granted? (b) How can you examine if this is true in your life? (c) Do you speak of Him, think of Him and share the good news with others?

3. What is one thing that you can do to remember what His love means when you are afraid of something in your life?

4. Is it enough for you to have God's love, or are you seeking love from other people or in things?

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