

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART III

Sermon Title: Week 6, Clarifying one of scriptures great promises

Principal Scripture: Romans 8:26-30 Date: December 9, 2018

† When reading scripture, the question we must ask: *What does this mean?*

- **Almost done with Romans 8! Next week is childrens musical, then on 23rd, wrap it up.**
- **OK- last year... “what NT really has to say, because Life is to important for easy answers”... Premise- there can be things we THINK scripture says, things we claim as truth, that really are what another person, or book, or movement has said... and may or may not be what SCRIPTURE actually says.**
- **The point being that it is so important that what we SAY- and believe- scripture says is actually what scripture says. THIS CAN BE CHALLENGING, but it really just comes down to a few things**
 - **Incorporate scripture into our relationship with Jesus.**
 - **Have a heart that truly desires to hear God’s truth**
 - **When we are reading specific passages, be willing to ask an ALL IMPORTANT QUESTION... WHAT DOES THIS MEAN.**
- **Sometimes, we ask this when scripture is just plain confusing. ‘Woa.. what does this mean!’**
- **Other times, tho, we may have a verse that we love, memorize, put on greeting cards, repeat... but we might not stop to really look at the context, and ask the question.. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, because this is God’s truth, and I don’t want to miss it- even if what the scripture means might not be what I think it means...**
- **THIS IS TRUE OF OUR PASSAGE TODAY, which contains what may be the most famous verse in Romans... Romans 8:28. Do you know it? IN NIV...**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- **HUGE PROMISE! BUT, it is not a standalone statement! Like EVERY verse in the bible that gets memorized as a standalone statement, it is part of a CONTEXT that is ESSENTIAL to understanding what this means. This is all of Romans (smile)- Romans 8... HOPE OF CHRIST IN REALITY OF SUFFERING... today, the immediate context of verses 26-30.**

† Three Truths to remember when reading Romans 8:26-30

- **God is FOR you**
- **God is at WORK**
- **Around you. In you. Through you. HE IS AT WORK. THERE IS SIGNIFICANCE TO WHAT is happening!**
 - **Did I mention that God is FOR you?**
- **OK- with that, lets jump in.**
- **THREE BIG CONCEPTS, and they all go together...**

† God is with us in our **WEAKNESS**

- **Reading from NASB, closer to direct meaning...**
- **Read both verses...**

Romans 8:26-27 *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 (HOLY ONES) according to the will of God.*

- *Just as the spirit reminds us that we are God’s children, and just as God has given us the Spirit- Himself- as the first step into the fullness of eternity- SO RIGHT NOW, the Spirit is with us, helping us, in our weakness.*
- *NOT, “when we are weak”. WE ARE WEAK. This is offensive to many, but a fundamental truth of scripture is that apart from God, we are lost, and apart from a relationship with Christ, we can do nothing. This reminds us that to experience the GOODNESS of God’s presence in our lives, we have to lay down our pride and look to him*
- *IN OUR WEAKNESS, we don’t know how to pray- ??*
 - *Times when struggle is so great, we don’t even know where to start, what to say*
 - *ALSO- simple reality that we just don’t understand what we should pray for. We tend to be self-centered, we don’t see the bigger picture, the real and greater needs in our situations*
- *BUT THEN, The Spirit takes our cares, concerns, hopes... and with a compassion and love we can’t even comprehend, let alone express, presents our lives, our hearts, to God.*
- *27- INCREDIBLE PICTURE- God searching our hearts, God knowing the mind of the Spirit who is interceding for us, and the Spirit’s prayers for us are in line with God’s will for us... PICTURE OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT WORKING TOGETHER to bring about God’s will in our lives.*
- *WHAT THIS MEANS... we may be praying for an outcome, a need... GOD CARES ABOUT THIS... but he knows that we have an even greater need, he knows his purposes he is working toward.*
- *THIS SHOULD GIVE US CONFIDENCE TO PRAY- openly, honestly to God, because we KNOW that God is searching our hearts, the Spirit listening, hearing, and bringing to God what we truly need...*
- *THIS CONCEPT- that God is working toward a GOOD that we, in our weakness, CANNOT fully understand... this leads to the GREAT PROMISE...*

✠ The Great Promise

Romans 8:28 *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.*

- *HUGE! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? Because we look at the world around us, perhaps our own lives, and we cry out... HOW CAN THIS BE GOOD!*
- *FIRST- this does NOT say that ALL THINGS ARE GOOD. Sin is not good. Disease and decay are not Good- this is BONDAGE we will be delivered from.*
- *SECOND- passage does not say that God is causing bad things to happen so that he can use them for Good. You can have a conversation about the role of God’s hand- his sovereignty- in causing things to happen, but that is not Paul’s point here.*
- *The promise is that SOMEHOW, as followers of Christ, as children of God, we KNOW- by faith we TRUST- that God is working- CAUSING (sense of certainty) all things to WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.*
- *What is the ‘good’ God is working toward? This is where we have to take our eyes off of ourselves, and place them upon Jesus. THIS PROMISE IS NOT that the good will be the short term outcomes we hope for.*

- **The GOOD is the good of us coming to KNOW HIM as our only source of life. For us to be FORMED into his image... TRANSFORMED... Sometimes we have to go through suffering to come to this. It is the GOOD of God’s kingdom, his work that is beyond our capacity to see... HIS GOOD for us, but IN US, and THROUGH US.**
- **How does Paul describe the believer?**
 - **Those who LOVE GOD**
 - **CALLED according to GODS PURPOSE!**
- **WE ARE NOT AT THE CENTER! We don’t know how we should pray, but GOD, who LOVES US, who searches our hearts and hears the groans of the Spirit on our behalf... HE IS AT WORK to bring about HIS GOOD, HIS PURPOSES, so that we may KNOW HIM, know his freedom, his goodness, his LIFE.**
- **I may say... GOD! LOOK AT THIS SITUATION! This HAS to change. God, with all of my heart, I ask you to take me to point A (healing. New job. Healed relationship. Deliverance from suffering).**
- **Mystery of God and the Spirit...**
- **God says “Ethan, I love you. I know and care about you more than you can understand. And I WILL CAUSE ALL OF THIS to work together, ultimately, for the GOOD of my purposes that I’m working out in you, and around you. THAT IS WHY, even though you want to go to point A, I am taking you to point B.**
- **HEBREWS 11... the heroes of faith... lives defined by waiting and suffering.. then...**

³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

- **Church, hear. God calls us to live by FAITH. We pray, but we may not receive the outcomes we pray for, what we think would be good, because GOD HAS SOMETHING BETTER FOR US- A GOOD ONLY HE KNOWS, that in his purposes he is working toward. This is the good the OT saints looked toward, and it is the HOPE OF KNOWING CHRIST.**
- **THIS IS WHY WE CAN MOVE TO HEBREWS 12...**
- **GOD IS FOR US... WORKING FOR GOOD... did I mention that God is FOR US? PAUL CONTINUES, and lays out the ultimate GOOD for us that God is working towards**

✠ The Disciples Destiny

Romans 8:29-30 *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 brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

- **DON'T get derailed here! We hear ‘predestined’, and all sorts of issues and questions come up. The topic of predestination and free will IS important, but that’s not where Paul is going here. It’s important that we don’t stray too far from the text into our own 21st century perspectives and miss the point that we really need to hear.**
- **THINK OF WHO PAUL IS WRITING TO. People who had no power in life, no influence, suffering, life is uncertain... TO THEM- and TO YOU- GOD SAYS**
 - **I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN that you would be mine.**
 - **KNOWING THIS, I have given you an irrevocable destiny, and it is to be CONFORMED... that all of the goodness, rightness of CHRIST will be realized in us.... “Glorious freedom of the Children of God”... we will be BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF JESUS.**
 - **THIS IS WORK GOD IS DOING NOW.**

- **God has predestined us for this... IT WILL HAPPEN. And not only that, he has CALLED US- when we were lost, he called out to us (is he doing this now?)... JUSTIFIED... GLORIFIED.**
- **TENSE... completed. How? We have here the promise of our lives fully entering into the Glory of God... THIS IS CERTAINTY... SO CERTAIN, it is as if it has already happened. ALL THINGS are working toward this good**