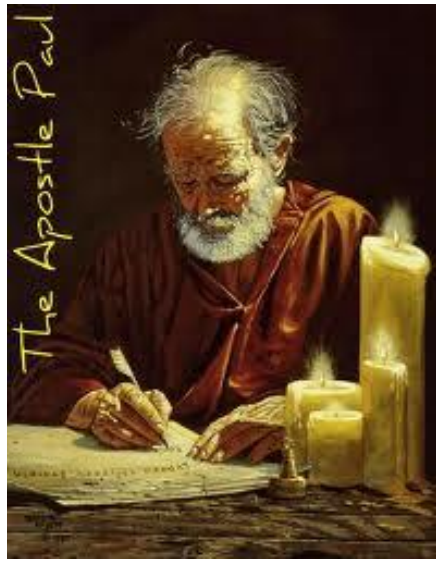




Paul's Letter to the Romans



**The Righteousness of God
has been Revealed!**

**Chapter 8
Living as a
member of
God's Family**

God's
Love
Never
Fails



Paul's Strategy



Rom 1 Gentiles could not achieve God's righteousness

Rom 2 Jews could not achieve righteousness

Rom 3 Explains God's atonement: justification by faith

Rom 4 OT proof of justification by faith

Rom 5 Moral implication of justification by faith

Rom 6 Freedom from Sin to serve God

Rom 7 Freedom from Law, not yet from our nature

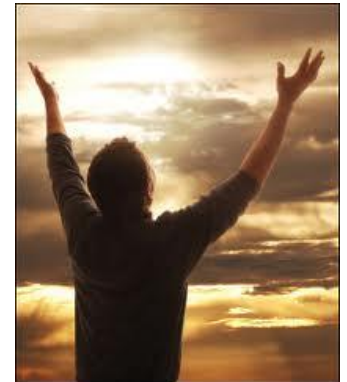
Now Paul shows the awesome benefits of living as a member of God's Family

At the end of Romans 7....

Paul feels a wretched man (v.24)



- **Who will deliver him from this body death?**
 - Paul couldn't wait to put off this body of humiliation (Philip 3:21)
- **Thanks be to God,** through Jesus Christ our Lord – God our savior!
- **So the Apostle Paul in his reconciled state:**
 - Serves law of God in his mind
 - Serves law of sin in his body
- **That's how it will be** till Christ changes these bodies to be like his glorious body



Now in Rom 8 Paul explains **HOW** God has delivered us from these bodies of death

God will not condemn those in Christ

Romans 8:1-3

1 There is therefore **now** no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, ~~who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.~~ 2 For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.** 3 For **what the law [of Moses] could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did** by sending His own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh [flesh of sin], on account of sin [not a “sin offering”]: He condemned sin in the flesh,**

But we must be living according to the Spirit

After: O wretched man that I am and I thank God through Jesus



- **There is therefore now no condemnation** – God has forgiven our sins & removed the sentence against us
 - Adam's sin had resulted in condemnation on all men – because all men sinned (Rom 5:16, 18)
 - **To those in Christ Jesus – not just baptism!**
 - **Those in Christ Jesus** do not walk according to the flesh (the carnal mind of v.5-8), but according to the Spirit
 - **This is not the removal of some legal status** – it is the forgiveness of our sins and the removal of what they deserve
- **The law of the Spirit of life in Christ** has made me free from the law of sin and death (cp 7:23, 25)



**God's free gift
provides justification
of life (5:18)**

In Christ Jesus

Philippians 3:7-11

1 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, **that I may gain Christ** 9 and **be found in Him, not having my own righteousness**, which is from the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death**, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

We must know him to be in him

If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 1 John 2:24-25

Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:24-25)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph 2:10)

According to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began (2Tim 1:9)

One Family in Christ Jesus



You are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:28

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same Father. (Heb 2:11)

Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col 1:27)

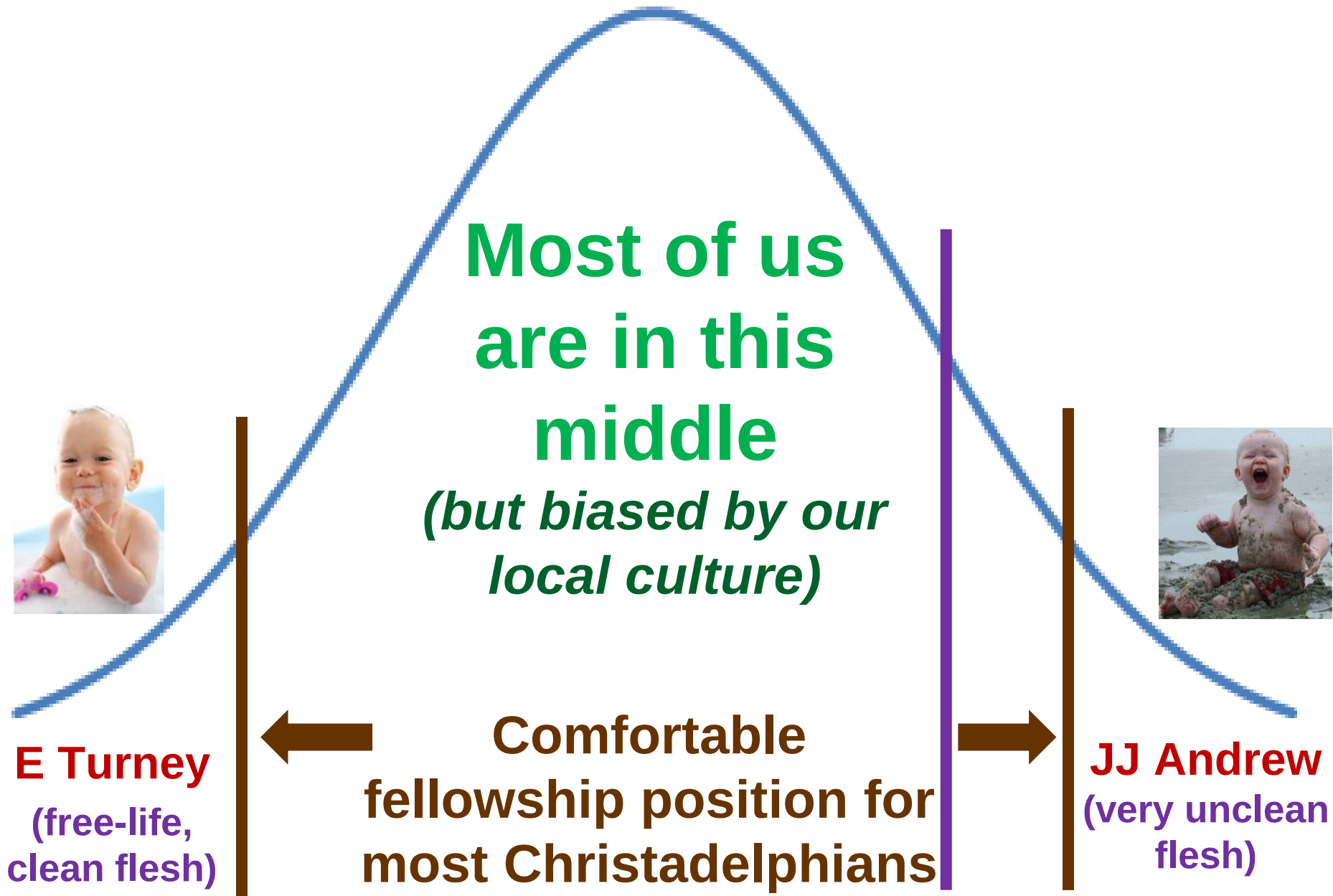
How we know we are in Christ

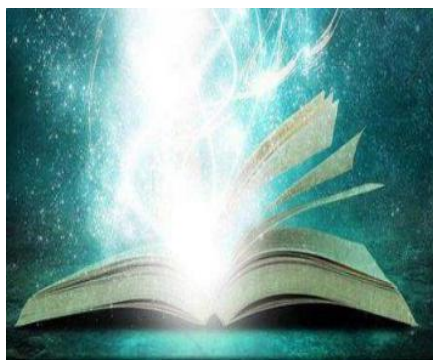
1 John 2:3-6

3 Now **by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** 4 **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** 5 But **whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.** 6 **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**

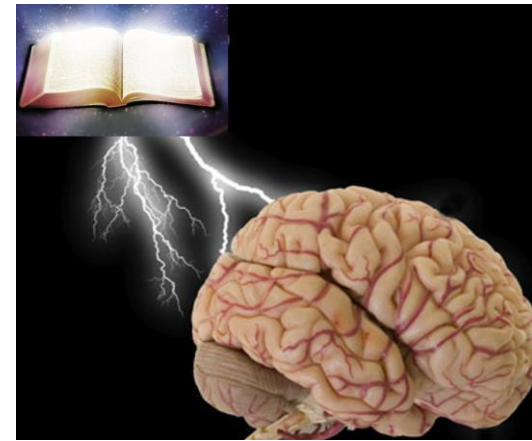
We must strive to walk as Christ walked

Christadelphian Extreme Atonement Views





The Law of the Spirit of Life



- **Law of Sin** in Rom 7 means a principle of life or conduct that leads to sin
- **Law of the Spirit of life** is a principle of life or conduct generated by God's spirit that leads to eternal life
- **As John Thomas wrote** in Elpis Israel:

“Where the truth has possession of the sentiments, setting them to work and so forming the thoughts, it becomes the law of God to them; which the apostle styles ‘the law of his mind’; and because it is written there through the hearing of ‘the law and the testimony’, which came to the prophets and apostles through the spirit, he terms it *‘the law of the spirit’* inscribed ‘on fleshy tables of the heart’; and ‘the law of the spirit of *life*’, because, while obeyed, it confers a right to eternal life.”

God did what the Law could not do (v.3)

- **Law was weak through the flesh**
 - Human nature could not keep
 - Most sins had no atonement
- **God did by sending His own son**
 - In the likeness of sinful flesh [“made in the likeness of men” (Philip 2:7)]
 - On account of Sin
 - God condemned Sin in the flesh – God beat Sin in the arena where it had reigned since Adam!



**The Law condemned sinners,
God condemned Sin**

God will not condemn those in Christ

Romans 8:4-8

4 that the **righteous requirement of the law** [2:26] might be fulfilled in us **who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**.

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit**. 6 For to be carnally minded [*think like man*] is death, **but to be spiritually minded [*think like God*] is life and peace**. 7 Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be**. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

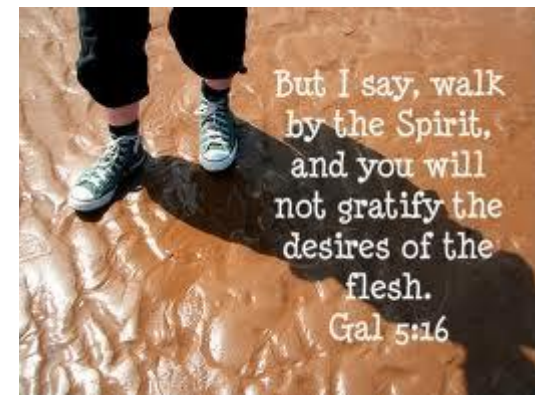
But we must be living according to the Spirit

God's goal: we will walk by the Spirit (v.4)

- **Righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us** – we will live the way the Law attempted to train us to live [uncircumcised in 2:14]
- **We walk according to the Spirit** – not the flesh. Our way of life proves we want to identify with Christ
- **Our minds are on the Spirit** – not the flesh (5)
- **Carnally minded is death**, but spiritually minded is life & peace (v.6)
- **Carnal mind is enmity with God** – not subject to law of God & cannot be! (v.7)



**Those in the flesh
cannot please God**



A God-like spirit must be dwelling in us

Romans 8:9-11

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

When God sees His character in us He will give us eternal life like He did with Jesus

Living in the Spirit (9-11)

- **Spirit of God [a God-like spirit] dwells in you** (v.9) to counter “sin that dwells in me” (7:17)
- **Must have spirit of Christ [a Christ-like spirit] in us**
 - No longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me (Gal 2)
 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col 3:16)
- **Body is dead because of sin** (“that the body of sin might be destroyed” 6:6), but spirit is life because of righteousness (v.10)
- **He who raised Christ from the dead [because of God’s character in Christ] will give life** to your mortal bodies through His spirit that dwells in you [because God’s character is in us] (v.11)
 - Walk in newness of life (6:4)
 - We shall also live with him (6:8)
 - Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ (6:11)
 - Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead (6:13 – risen from dead to sin in baptism)



**Christ in you, the hope
of Glory (Col 1:27)**



A God-like spirit in us will put the flesh to death

Romans 8:12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — **not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.** 13 **For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** 14 For as many as are **led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** 15 For **you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear** *[as under Law]*, but you received the Spirit of adoption by **whom we cry out, "Abba, Father"** *[like Jesus when led by the spirit – Mk 14:36]*. 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit *[when we act like God]* that **we are children of God**, 17 and **if children, then heirs — heirs of God** and joint heirs with Christ, **if** indeed **we suffer with Him**, that we may also be glorified together.

God's children learn to live like God

Living now as Adopted Sons of God (vs 12-17)



God's children live by Love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
gentleness, faithfulness & self-control

Adopted into God's Family (v.15)



- **Spirit of bondage to fear** – slavery to serve Sin by law (Gal 4:3-4; 5:1). Serve master due to fear!
- **Spirit of adoption:** God has brought us – who by nature are alienated from God - into His family
- **We cry “Abba, Father” like Jesus did** when he was fighting the mental war of his life in the garden (Mk 14:36, see also Gal 4:6) – choosing to do God's will, not his own
- **Spirit bears witness with our spirit (v.16)** – because we learn to live life & respond to situations like God! (1Jn 2:3-4)
- **If children, then heirs of God (v.17)** & joint heirs with Christ (from 4:13)
- **If we suffer with him (in our war with Sin),** that we might be glorified together
 - Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (1 Pet 4:1)



**Children of God are led by
God's spirit & suffer with Christ
to be heirs of the glory**

Adopted as children of God

Galatians 4:1-7

1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in **bondage** under the elements of the world.

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5 to redeem those who were under the law, **that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

6 And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and **if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

The Spirit of His Son must be in our hearts



The “ifs” in Rom 8



9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

**We have to make a conscious decision to
fight our natural mind and let God grow
the spirit of Christ in our minds**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

Our creation will give birth to the sons of God

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.** 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for **the revealing of the sons of God.** 20 For **the creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly [*God cursed his whole creation*], but because of **Him who subjected it in hope;** 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into **the glorious liberty of the children of God.** 22 For we know that the **whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.** 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**

We have to patiently wait & persevere

**God uses
suffering to
prepare us for
glory (vs 18-30)**



**Suffering due to
the war with Sin**

God's whole creation
was subject to
vanity because
of Adam

Now it waits
for a rebirth
& the revealing
of the children
of God



The whole creation eagerly waits for God's family

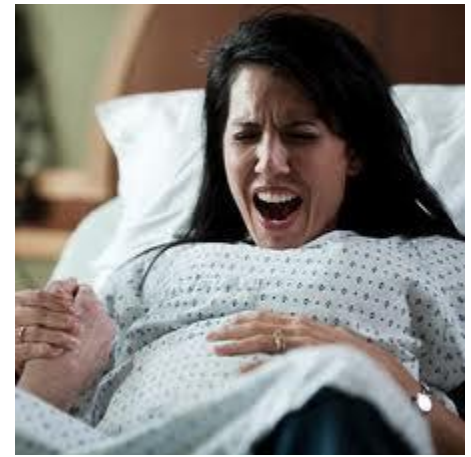


- **Sufferings now aren't worthy to be compared** to the glory to be revealed in us
 - We rejoice in hope of the glory of God (5:2)
- **Whole purpose of this creation** was for the revealing of the children of God (v.19)
- **God subjected our creation to futility** (Ecclesiastes) in hope of producing God's family (v.20)
 - God uses the troubles & weaknesses of our current lives to turn us into His children – It's His plan!
- **Whole creation is like us** – under bondage of corruption, and like us – it will be delivered [freed] into glorious liberty! (v.21)



**Sufferings of today produce
the glories of tomorrow!**

Whole creation is in labor like a woman ready to give birth



- **Whole creation groans & labors** with birth pangs – suffering is everywhere now, hoping for the birth
- **Saints today also groan inside** from our sufferings, waiting for the final adoption – when God redeems our bodies to immortality (v.23)
 - Right now, only our minds are being changed
- **We were saved in this hope** – the hope that Christ will change our bodies to be like his glorious body (24)
- **Now we can't see it, but we eagerly wait** with perseverance (v.25) – patiently waiting for the birth!

We have the hope that our present sufferings will give birth to immortal life with God

Intercession of our spiritual mind

Romans 8:26-30

26 Likewise the Spirit [*spiritual mind God is growing in us*] also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself [*itself*] makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** 27 Now He [Christ] who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** 29 For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. [*It's already done for God!*]

**God is in control and using
everything for our good**



God provides us with help through the Spirit



- **The spirit (the God-like spirit in us) helps in our weaknesses (v.26) – conforming us to God’s will**
 - Helps us in prayer (God’s mind developed in us knows the will of God)
 - Makes intercession for us with unspeakable groanings (fighting the will of the flesh)
- **He (Christ) who searches our hearts, knows the mind of the spirit He is growing in us (v.27)**
 - He makes intercession for saints according to God’s will
 - He knows what we need so we will grow into God’s children

**Jesus went through this same process
in the garden of Gethsemane**

God causes all things to work together for good (8:28 NASB)



- **God directs all the events of our life** for our growth & development for our future in His family
 - **Faith** gives us confidence in God's plan



Look at
Joseph's
life!



God's Family Members

- **Those who love God**
(our motivation!)
- **Called according to God's purpose** (it's not of us)
- **God foreknew us** (God had his family members picked out from the beginning)
 - Predestined [the goal] us to be changed into people who live like Jesus – God's son
 - Jesus is the firstborn of many sons (huge family)

**Chosen by God, but
not forced to join**



God's Election for His Family (v.30)



- Those He predestined, He called
 - It was not up to us, God called His children
- Those He called, He justified
 - He promised to justify His family – He would provide a savior
- Those He justified, He glorified
 - “the glory which shall be revealed in us” (v.18)
 - In God's mind....it's already done!

It's all of God. He made the plan and guaranteed it's success

**Assurances
that God will
save us
(vs 31-39)**



God has done everything He could

Romans 8:31-34

31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? ***It is God who justifies [God who justifies?]***. 34 Who is he who condemns? ***It is Christ who died [Christ who died?]***, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Now it's up to us to respond to
the love of God in Christ

If God is for us, who can be against us? (v.31)

- **God didn't spare His only son**
 - He delivered Christ up for us all
- **He will freely give us all things**
- **2Cor 4:15** For all things are for your sakes



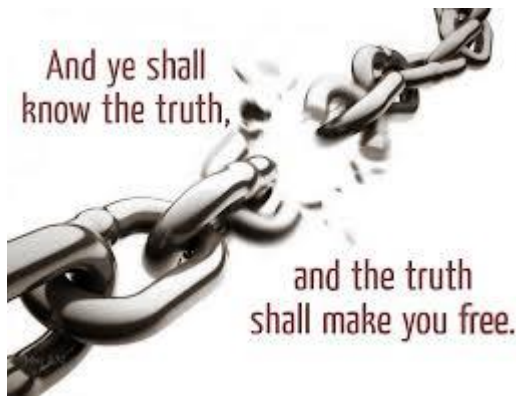
The wages of Sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (6:23)

Who will bring a charge against God's elect



- **God won't!** He justifies us! (v.33)
- **Christ won't** condemn us! (v.34)
 - He died for us & rose to immortality
 - He's sitting at God's right hand
 - He makes intercession for us (cp v.27)

**So why
are we
so hard
on each
other?**



**For freedom Christ
has set us free!
(Gal 5:1 RSV)**

God has done everything He could

Romans 8:35-39

35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? *[all types of suffering, like Christ]* 36 As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." *[Psa 44:22 suffering while doing good]*

37 Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors** *[because God is using these events to train us]* through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing *[all things God has power over]*, shall be able to separate us from **the love of God** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Now it's up to us to respond to the
love of God in Christ**

Learning obedience through suffering

Psalm 44:17-22

17 All this has come upon us; **But we have not forgotten You, nor have we dealt falsely with Your covenant.** 18 **Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from Your way;** 19 But You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, and covered us with the shadow of death.

20 If we had forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, 21 Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. 22 **Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**

Later it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it

Who will separate us from the Love of Christ?



- **Suffering:** tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword (v.35)
- **“for your sake we are killed all day long”**
 - Psalm 44 begins with God’s salvation by grace
 - God’s children suffered persecution
 - Sons of Korah trusted God to save them
- **Yet...in spite of these sufferings....**we are more than conquerors (because these experiences are developing us into God’s children), through Him who loved us (v.37)

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (5:5)

Paul's conviction

Romans 8:38-39 (RSV)

38 For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

So what are YOU worried about?

Lessons from This Class

- Thank God that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
- We must be spiritually minded to battle with our minds of the flesh
- Spiritual mindedness only comes by actively putting God's word & character into our minds
- God has the power to cause all things to work together for good, if we love God
- No one can separate us from the love of God - He gave His son for us & Jesus was willing to die to Sin every day of his life to save us

Exhortation...

Romans 9: God's Election

