



# Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 8

Sanctification's Eternal Purpose

# Romans 6-8: God's Work of Sanctification

1. **Objective side**: **Rom 6** grounds us in the Word of truth on how the finished work Christ Jesus has accomplished our sanctification through death, resurrection and presentation
2. **Subjective side**: **Rom 7-8** the Holy Spirit's work is to bring our selves (flesh) to **the cross** where we are **raised** by the resurrecting Spirit into a walk in the Spirit where Christ's life within overcomes Sin
3. **HPOV**: **Rom.8.16- 39** the Spirit intercedes and strengthens as we rise into the eternal plan God is accomplishing through our sanctification

# HPOV: Overview of Romans 8

## Sanctification by the Spirit

1. Rom 8.1-13 a new Law:  
the Holy Spirit sanctifies us  
spirit, soul, and body

2. Rom 8.14-28 the new Way:  
the Holy Spirit “comes  
alongside” and groans with us  
in hope as we pass through  
our transforming tribulations

3. Rom 8.29-30 the new  
predestined goal; Sonship

4. Rom 8.31-39 the new eternal Covenant (Law): His promise  
to love and never let go until He glorifies Christ in us



# Romans 8 summary of the Holy Spirit's power in our Life

**Part 1: Romans 8.5-9** the Spirit enables us to walk according to the Law of Life without condemnation as we put to death the deeds of the flesh

**Part 2: Romans 8.10-13** the Spirit's resurrection power is both able to overcome the mortal body's fleshly inclinations and also quicken our mortal bodies with healing virtue

**Part 3: Rom 8.14-18** the Holy Spirit introduces us within our spirits to our great future as sons and heirs of God as we sense our present sufferings and groanings have this hope

**Part 4: Rom 8.19-25** the Holy Spirit joins our sufferings with Creation's groaning as we understand that God's eternal purpose is for Christ to come back to earth with us as glorified sons of God to set at liberty all of Creation



# Romans 8 the Holy Spirit will keep us as we transform from Grace to Glory

- I. the Holy Spirit has become our closest partner in the transformation
  - a. our eyes are seeing great promises and our hearts are filled with hope
  - b. behind the eternal transformation is the Spirit who is our comforter and helper who is keeping you to the end

Part 5: **Rom 8.26-30** the Holy Spirit leads us into priestly intercession as He reveals that we have been “chosen” and predestined for Glory in God’s plan

Part 6: **Rom 8.31-39** in the light of this eternal pathway Paul concludes this climb up to the mountaintop of glory by asking 5 unanswerable questions to assure our hearts we will get there



## Romans 8.14-30: Holy Spirit Bringing Many Sons to Glory

**Rom 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; 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.

**The Holy Spirit comes alongside when overwhelmed by our sufferings and weakness because we don't know how to pray according to God's Will in all this**

1. **Rom 8.26-27** Just as Jesus showed the human side of God's love with the disciples the Spirit now shows the same divine sympathy now by joining with us in our groanings too deep for words
  - a. Such groaning prayer comes when we have no words to describe the inward hurts, longings, hopes of the inward man
  - b. the Spirit of God immediately helps us as of highest importance and comforts us by uniting His groans with ours giving us a sense we've somehow been heard
2. Then the Spirit in a mystical intercession interprets our joint groans producing intelligent prayer 'harmonizing' them with the Will of God
3. Meanwhile our patient Father who has been searching the hearts of His children waiting to hear how He can help receives the Spirit's "translation" and immediately answers them sometimes before we even pray

## Romans 8.14-30: Holy Spirit Bringing Many Sons to Glory

**Rom 8.28-30** 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. 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; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

### The Holy Spirit reveals God's Eternal Plan

**Rom. 8.28-30** We come to “know” we are in a process begun long ago and predestined to be completed in Glory

1. Long before our birth we were already a part of a **predestined plan** for all to be “summed up” in Christ
2. **Goal:** predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ in order to reign with Him as ‘sons’ in glory
3. The Spirit is now ‘**engineering**’ every circumstance in the lives of those who love God and are called with that supreme purpose
4. The predestined process of **God's eternal purpose: foreknown to predestined to called to justified to glorified**

## Romans 8: Summary of Holy Spirit's Work

### **The Holy Spirit is gathering various elements into His New Creation**

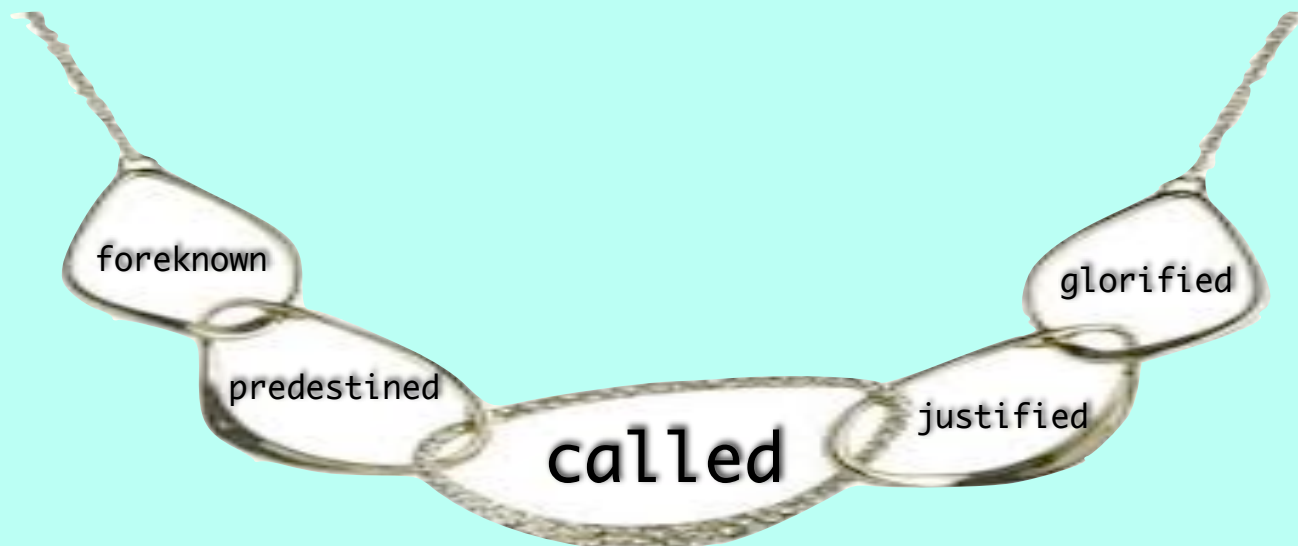
- 1. The Holy Spirit abides with us as He intercedes practically working out our sanctification into the “new creation” in union with Christ the first fruits of Glory**
- 2. The Spirit assures us we are in the Father's family by testifying to our spirit that we are children destined to become heirs and interpreting our “Abba's” back to the Father**
- 3. The Spirit pours out His Life strengthening our inner man and leading us by the Law of the Spirit of Life with the power to overcome our flesh**
- 4. The Spirit then encourages us to be faithful in suffering by revealing to us we have a great and vital part in the “new creation” including all creation being transformed**
- 5. Then the Spirit inwardly groans along with us and all creation in the labor pains of Hope and intercedes and then interprets them according to the Will of God**
- 6. The Holy Spirit graciously reveals to us God's glorious predestined end**
  - a. Looking back we see that the Holy Spirit caused everything to work together for good in transforming us into the image of God's first born son**
  - b. Looking forward, the Holy Spirit reveals we were foreknown and are part of the Father's predestined plan**
  - c. Meanwhile in the present the Spirit keeps us from falling until He presents us faultless as we go from being called, justified, sanctified and glorified**

# the mystery of eternity's plan

The mystery: Foreknown, Predestined, Called, Justified, Glorified are all past tense - already finished in Eternity

“We now are introduced to a definition of that purpose and are shown that a five-linked chain hangs down out of eternity, reaching us with the third link and taking us back into eternity”

“Romans” Donald Grey Barnhouse



**Part 6: Rom 8.31-39 Paul concludes this climb up to the mountaintop of glory by asking 5 unanswerable questions to assure our hearts that a Sovereign God finishes what He begins**

1. This final section has been called Paul's highest mountain peak of divine revelation and his greatest hymn of praise
2. Paul asks 5 questions in light of the 5 affirmations previously listed: **foreknown; predestined; called; justified; glorified**
3. the issue behind these questions: can anything defeat God's plan or harm those in the plan?
  - a. if we fight on our own, **everything** mentioned can defeat us
  - b. if our Sovereign Lord already has us locked into his predestined plans, **nothing** can defeat us

*“The apostle hurls these questions out into space, as it were, defiantly, triumphantly, challenging any creature in heaven or earth or hell to answer them or to deny the truth that is contained in them. But there is no answer, for nobody and nothing can harm the redeemed people of God.”*

**Rom 8.31** ¶ What then shall we say to these things?  
If God is for us, who can be against us?

**Question #1. Rom 8.31** Who can be against us?

1. “What shall we say..?” - In this final section the Holy Spirit strengthens our inner man to defiantly stand without fear given the depth and promise of “**these things**” (5 affirmations just revealed)
2. This verse assumes saints often rightly feel that so many things stand against them: critics, adversaries, family, friends, work mates, the world, their own proud flesh, sin and the Devil himself
3. But **if** chosen by God and kept by His Spirit in this predestined transformation, even attacks, persecutions and trials are **sovereignly** overturned from their evil intent as God “**works them together for good**”
4. the challenge we make to our opposition comes, not from ourselves, but from the promise of **Ps.118.6** quoted again in **He.13.6** : “if God is for us” which silences all enemies - **NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST US**

**Rom 8.32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

**Question #2. Rom 8.32** Will God always supply our every need through this long process or will He perhaps change His mind or maybe forget us or change his face toward us as we struggle or falter?

1. Here is the undeniable truth about God's love: if He "**did not spare His only son but gave him up for us all,**" we can be certain that "God is for us" and His grace is greater than all our sin
2. If God has already given us His absolute best gift, why would He ever withhold any lesser gift? His very nature is to be a **magnanimous Giver**
3. If we need a friend, if we need comfort in trouble, light in a dark place, a counsellor in temptation, direction in life - He freely gives us all things
4. The **cross** is the proof of God's generosity and freely answers the question without hesitation

**Rom 8.33** Who shall bring any charge against God's chosen? It is God who justifies.

**Question #3. Rom 8.33** Who can bring any charge against God's chosen?

1. Paul has in view a courtroom scene where charges are brought against us
2. we all know there are many charges against us that are true and would hold up in a court of law. the devil accuses us night and day with many valid charges. others charge our trespasses against us
3. sometimes we become anxious, doubtful, thinking our troubles or sicknesses have come as judgment, maybe even afraid of losing our salvation
4. But we remember that our Sovereign has already **justified us** in His eternal plan, court is adjourned - case is closed
5. One day when God the Judge appears upon His great white throne robed in Righteousness He will see our names in the Lamb's book of life and declare us "**justified**" which no one can either argue or appeal. **the Judge has spoken**

## Romans 8.31-39 Gospel's 5 Unanswerable Questions

**Rom 8.34** Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

**Question #4. Rom 8.34** Who is he who condemns?

1. The previous question of **charges** that might be brought against us in the courtroom have been answered but now the question arises as to whether we might still be **condemned** in Judgment
2. Paul responds by clarifying that the basis for his previous claim that God has Justified is entirely found in His Son
3. Jesus is the four-fold answer to why “**there is therefore no condemnation**” among His chosen ones
  - a. Jesus **died** for us and by His precious blood removed all sin and guilt
  - b. More than dying, we were **raised** in union with Christ as living proof that my justification was accepted by God and the sentence of death forever removed
  - c. More than that, Jesus in His glorified position seated at the right hand of God means our justification is a **finished work once and for all** with no double jeopardy
  - d. More than that, Jesus now **intercedes** for us at the Father's right hand helping us during our present sanctification. **SO NO ONE CONDEMNS**

**Rom 8.35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

**Question #5. Rom 8.35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

1. Here a secret is divulged: all attempts to make us feel God is against us-- to create fear God might not provide — that God has charged our sins against us, that God condemns us in judgment - are enemy attempts to try and “**separate us from the love of Christ**”
2. **v.35** Paul first lists 7 “sufferings” faithful sons might go through which would easily make others feel separated from God but which instead forge a deeper union with the Lord: **tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword**
3. **v.36** Paul quotes **Psalm 44.22** to remind all God’s servants that in this world fearsome and deadly attacks befall everyone who serves the Lord
4. **v.37** But His chosen ones know the love of God so deeply that instead of separating us from the Lord His love they cause us to rise up over these circumstances as “**super overcomers**” (lit. in Gk. hyper = above + nike = conquer)

## Romans 8.31-39 Gospel's 5 Unanswerable Questions

**Rom 8.38-39** For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

**Question #5. Rom 8.35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

1. Here a secret is divulged: all attempts to make us feel God is against us- to create fear God might not provide - that God has charged our sins against us, that God condemns us in judgment - are all attempts to try and “**separate us from the love of Christ**”

5. **v.38** Paul now makes this great hymn personal and finally answers the original question asked back in Rom. 8.31 “**What then shall we say to these things?**”

- Answer: “**I am persuaded...**” - knowing the love of a Sovereign God who is abiding with him in Christ he is convinced nothing can separate

6. **v. 38-39** Paul lists 10 further things which occur in life which a christian might fear would separate us: **death, life, angels, principalities, things present, things to come, powers, height, depth, any other created thing**

7. **Conclusion: “nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

8. **God's predestined purposes are securely sealed by His Love which nothing can sever**

## Rom. 8.31-39

the **practical issue** behind all these questions: can anything defeat God's plan or harm those in the plan?

1. if we fight everything on our own, **any thing** mentioned can defeat us
2. if we remain hidden in Christ our Sovereign God has us locked into his predestined plans, **nothing** can defeat us

*“The apostle hurls these questions out into space, as it were, defiantly, triumphantly, challenging any creature in heaven or earth or hell to answer them or to deny the truth that is contained in them. But there is no answer, for nobody and nothing can harm the redeemed people of God.”*

# the mystery of Sonship

“No one on earth has ever fathomed his own being. Until we die we remain to ourselves the deepest mystery. But this then is the glory that awaits us after dying- that the veil will be taken away from our face, and as in a clear mirror, God will show us our own being. Then only. Not before.

And herein is grace. If here on earth we were ever to have a sight of our being as we actually are, we would be terrified looking at ourselves. Even as a loving wife, hastening to the hospital to see her husband who had been wounded in battle - when she saw his misshapen, bandaged face, involuntarily recoiled, so would our soul shrink back from ourselves if we were to see in clearness our own being soiled by sin and enwrapped in grace.”

“And therefore Jesus tarries. And He will only let you see yourself when the latest trace of sin is gone and the last bandage has been removed and you can see yourself as a model of Christ’s redeeming love, altogether sound and altogether healed.

Then the mystery of your person falls away from before you. And God, who alone knows your being, because he himself has foreordained and created you and has kept you and has restored you, will then discover you to yourself, reveal your own being to you and in your own being, for God’s sake, make you rich.”

# Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 9
- Predestined Plan for Israel