

Gleanings of Grace

Romans 8

Lesson 6

The book of Romans was written by the apostle Paul to Christians residing in Rome while he was ministering in Corinth. The emphasis of the book is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Romans 8 is primarily a contrast between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit and the glorious fact that nothing *shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

OBSERVATION: Read Romans 8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus, God, and Holy Spirit.*

Key Words: *Jesus, God, Holy Spirit, and flesh*
3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used two times in this chapter. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what it is based upon.
4. The truths of Romans 8 lie in stark contrast to our natural thinking, therefore it is froth with contrasts. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used 17 times in Romans 8. Mark the words. Make a list of some of the statements that challenge our thoughts.

Background:

1. Much of Romans is about faith; it is about believing God. Read the following verses from the chapters prior to Romans 8 and summarize the good news of each one.

Romans 1:16,17

Romans 2:4

Romans 3:21-24

Romans 4:20,21 (regarding Abraham)

Romans 5:1

Romans 6:17,18

2. Romans 7 reveals Paul's frustration with himself. What did he admit in Romans 7:15?

- a. Record his ultimate frustration as he expressed in in verse 24.

- b. Record the blessed answer from verse 25.

- c. This leads us to the astonishing *therefore* in Romans 8:1. God's love and actions toward us are *therefore* based not on who we are as stated in verse 24, but on who God is based on verse 25. Take a moment to express your thoughts or gratitude for this.

Read Romans 8:1-11 - Flesh Versus Spirit

1. The first seven chapters of Romans remind us of our accountability to God and how often we fail Him. Romans 8:1 contains the word "therefore". What are some various phrases or words you might use to follow "therefore" as you consider your sin and what you deserve.
 - a. Now fill in the blanks as God has written it. *There is therefore now no* _____
 - b. According to verse 2, what has happened to free us from *condemnation*?
 - 1.) Under the law, the penalty for sin is death. Under the cross, the grace of Jesus Christ trumps the condemnation of sin. Define the word *condemnation*.
 - 2.) Share a few words that express freedom from *condemnation*.
2. Romans 8:3,4 identify the *weakness of the law*. The law detects sin, but it has no power to defeat sin. It requires perfection. Only Jesus could fulfill its requirements. We enjoy the fact that we are not condemned when *we do not walk according to the flesh, but walk according to the Spirit*. According to verse 5, what is one difference between those *who live according to the flesh* and *those who live according to the Spirit*?
 - a. What does it mean to *set your mind* on something?
 - b. How would determining where our *mind is set* be a good check as to whether we are walking in the flesh or the Spirit?
3. Make a list from verses 6-8 about the *carnal* (fleshly) *mind*.
4. Consider the truths of Romans 8:9-11. Because the Holy Spirit is given to each believer, every Christian has within themselves a power more powerful than the flesh. It is an optional power, but whenever it is used, it is evidence of the work of the *Spirit of Christ*. What are some changes you have seen in having power over the *flesh* since you were saved?

Read Romans 8:12-17 - Joint Heirs

1. Based on the glorious truth of the previous verses, *we are debtors*. Why do some Christians continue to obey the *lusts* of the *flesh*, when Christ has given them the power to overcome?
 - a. What does Galatians 5:16 promise?

2. Romans 8:13 contrasts the result of *living according to the flesh* and *living according to the Spirit*. How do the consequences vary?
 - a. In what ways have you experienced the detrimental effects of *living according to the flesh*?
 - b. In what ways have you experienced the blessing of *living according to the Spirit*?

3. *Living according to the Spirit* identifies us as *sons of God*. What happens the moment we believe? Ephesians 1:13,14
 - a. Bask in the words of Romans 8:16. We all have our times of doubt, setting those aside, record what it is like when the Holy Spirit inside you causes you to know you are a *child of God*.

4. Write the words of John 1:12.
 - a. As *children of God*, what does Romans 8:17 promise?
 - 1.) What does 1 Peter 1:4,5 reveal about our *inheritance*?
 - b. We are *joint heirs with Christ*. What does that mean to you?

Read Romans 8:18-30 – From Suffering to Glory

1. Romans 8:18 presents another contrast: the *sufferings of this present time* and the *glory which shall be revealed in us*. Paul stated that *they could not be compared*. Therefore, they should be contrasted. How are they different?

2. Romans 8:19-23 speaks of an *expectation of redemption* (deliverance from what is wrong to what is right) that results in a *groaning* as we wait. What does verse 23 declare that we *have*?
 - a. How does having a taste of things to come and the power of the Holy Spirit cause you to yearn for God's complete work in your life?
 - 1.) John expressed that same desire. What did he write in 1 John 3:2,3?
 - 2.) How does the *hope* of the complete changes God will make in you affect your perspective?
3. *Creation groans, believers groan*, and now in Romans 8:26,27 we see that *the Spirit groans*. What do these verses reveal about the *groaning of the Holy Spirit*?
 - a. What does it mean to you that *the Holy Spirit* prays for you *according to the will of God*?
4. This section began with the words *the sufferings of this present time*. The section addresses the *groaning* that exists while we wait to move from *suffering to glory*. What is the glorious promise that follows these verses? Romans 8:28
 - a. This promise applies to all who *are justified* (Romans 8:30). The *justified* (saved) not only have the promise of Romans 8:29, we also have the promise of Romans 8:30, all who are *justified will be glorified*. We **will** see the *redemption* that we *groan* for. What does it mean to you that God has promised that He will *glorify* you one day?

Read Romans 31-39 – God's Unfailing Love

1. Paul began this section with the question, *what shall we say to these things*? Truly these truths call for a burst of praise from all who are saved. Consider Paul's second question and answer it (Romans 8:31).
 - a. What are some times that you could apply this question in your life?
2. What is the ultimate proof of God's love for you (verse 32)?

- a. Confirm this with John's proclamation in 1 John 4:10.
 - b. Why do you think the giving of His Son is the most costly proof of God's love for you?
3. Record the questions in Romans 8:31-35 and answer them using either the answers given in these verses (when stated) or your own.
 4. Consider the hardships mentioned in verses 35,36. Complete the sentence in verse 37: *Yet in all these things we are _____ through _____ who _____ us.*
 - a. In what ways are you a *conqueror*?
 5. Paul ends this chapter with words that should be shouted from the rooftops. He wrote that he was *persuaded* of these truths. Using synonyms, define the word *persuaded*.
 - a. List each situation that *shall not be able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*.

REVIEW: Read Romans 8

1. What do you say to these things?

*The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.
What can man do to me?
- Psalm 118:6*

Observation Worksheet

Romans 8

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 could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ 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 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 is death, but to be spiritually minded 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. 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. 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, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit 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. 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, 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. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He 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. 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. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors 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, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.