

**Not Ashamed
(Week 22)
Romans 8:28-39
“More Than Conquerors”**

Introduction

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.”
Romans 8:37

As we conclude our study of **Romans Chapter Eight**, we come to some of the most quoted verses in all of scripture. But I wonder, if those who so often quote these verses fully comprehend their true meaning. Paul is assuring the believer, in this passage, that Jesus will finish the work that He began in them upon their salvation. Last week, we discussed the fact that the child of God is guaranteed three things: *Justification*, which speaks of our “Position on Christ”; *Sanctification*, which is the “Process” that The Spirit uses to conform us to holiness; and ultimately, *Glorification*, which is the finished “Product” when the sons of God are revealed in perfection.

It is not the child of God, who causes any of these things to happen. We are not only saved by God’s grace, but it is also a work of that same grace that will conform us into the image of Christ. The true believer in Jesus has nothing to fear, when it comes to their glorification. Jesus will finish what He started in us. You did not “work” in order to obtain your justification, neither can you work to bring about your sanctification or glorification. God has promised to do all of this for the child who simply puts their trust in Him. When I finally began to understand this truth, it was as if someone took the weight of the world off of my shoulders. Just as I couldn’t save myself, I had to learn that I couldn’t make myself holy. This is why **John 15** has become my favorite passage of scripture. Jesus assures us in that chapter that all we need to do is to love Him and stay connected by prayer and the study of His Word, and He will do the rest! He promises, that if we do this, we **will** bear the fruit of holiness.

So many Christians believe that they can somehow “lose” their salvation. I know quite a few of them, and while they are very sincere, and I truly believe that they love Christ, sadly they are in constant turmoil in their attempts to somehow “keep themselves” in God’s grace. If only they could grasp that everything we have been promised in Christ Jesus is His doing, and not our own. If they truly understood this passage in **Romans 8**, they would fully understand that just as you cannot “work yourself into your salvation”, you also cannot “work yourself out of it”. There is no sin that a true believer can commit that will forfeit his or her salvation. Think about it for a moment. If **“while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8)**, then why would He give up on us, if we mess up once we’re saved. This would mean that He loved us more while we were lost than He does after we belong to Him! Rest assured, my friends, Jesus won’t quit on you. He finishes what He starts, and He is not in the “failure business”. If it were up to me to keep myself saved, I would be hopeless. I might as well just walk away now and call it a day, but thank God, it is not up to me. I am relying on Him and His power to keep me where I need to be and to lead me where I need to go. That is the security we have in Christ! No wonder the hymn-writer called it “Blessed Assurance”.

It should come as no surprise then, that the latter part of **Romans Chapter Eight** has been met with some controversy. Paul speaks here of our “predestination” in Christ, which absolutely drives some folks crazy, namely those who believe that it is their own “good judgment” that led them to accept Christ. *The Bible* is clear.

“There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.” **Romans 3:11**

Not one single soul has ever been saved because *they* found Christ. On the contrary, it is Christ Who found them! Today, we will, once and for all, establish the fact that there truly is eternal security for those who are in Christ Jesus. The child of God: *Cannot Be Subdued*, *Cannot Be Stopped*, and *Cannot Be Separated* from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD. Period.

Cannot Be Subdued

"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." **Romans 8:28**

This is one of those verses that we hear quoted all the time... well, at least half of it. I can't tell you how many times I have heard people say, "All things work together for the good of those who love God." When I hear that, I always wait for the other shoe to drop, as it were, but it rarely does. Most folks leave off the last part of the verse, ***"who are called according to his purpose"***. And quite frankly, it is this portion of the verse that actually explains what Paul is talking about! Christians have been "called", *set apart*, in order to fulfill God's purpose. And what is this purpose? The glorification of the saints. That is what Paul has been talking about in this passage. God saves sinners and delivers them from all the condemnation for their sins, and then, He begins in them the process of sanctification. He uses suffering and trials of various kinds to conform us into the image of His Son. And, in the end, we will be presented glorified in perfect holiness!

So, exactly what are those "all things" that Paul is referring to that will work out for our good? The Greek in this passage actually speaks of ingredients being mixed together to bring about a desired result; a recipe, if you will, for glory. God combines different tests and trials in a believer's life in order to bring about the good result He wishes to accomplish. So, the "good" here that Paul is referring to is our glorification, and the "all things" are those trials that are arranged in such way that we reach God's desired purpose. In short, our sufferings do not subdue us, but rather, they bring us to completion.

If you would like to see a living breathing example of this you need look no further than the story of Joseph, found in the book of *Genesis*. God had a specific purpose for Joseph, but no one else could see it. His brothers absolutely despised him. They threw him in a pit and sold him as a slave. Just when Joseph managed to make the best of his slave status and was elevated to a position of authority in his masters house, he was betrayed and thrown into prison. It was there in prison that he was called upon to interpret the dream of one of the prisoners. When the prisoner was released, it seemed that once again Joseph was forgotten in that wretched place, until the Pharaoh had a dream and needed an interpretation. Joseph was finally remembered, and we all know the rest of the story, of how he was elevated to second in command of all Egypt and saved not only the Egyptians from famine, but his own family as well. When his brothers repented of all the evil they had inflicted upon him Joseph replied:

"You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result — the survival of many people." **Genesis 50:20**

So you see, God took all of the "ingredients", if you will, of Joseph's suffering and mixed them together to bring about his glorification. God took all those tragedies and worked them together to achieve His purpose. This is exactly what He will do in the life of every believer. The Father knows exactly what we need to endure in order to achieve His purpose of our glorification. Only He is qualified to do this. This is why we must trust God in all things. We have no idea what we need, to bring about our own holiness. This is why The Spirit prays for us! He knows exactly *what* we need and at just the right time.

Did you know that salt is made up of two poisons? Sodium and Chlorine are both deadly, but when they are combined you get salt. In much the same way, God combines the trials in our lives to make us salt and light in this darkened world. When the child of God patiently endures the trials of this life, the end result is glorification. We show the world the glory of Christ in our suffering. This is why we must be a people of prayer, that we may patiently endure all that God allows to come our way. In good times and bad times, we glorify our God and allow His purpose to be fulfilled in us. If we do this, we cannot be subdued by our trials, but on the contrary:

"We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." **Romans 8:28** (emphasis added)

Cannot be Stopped

"For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestinated, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified." **Romans 8:29-30**

Now, we need to read these verses very carefully. Make no mistake in what Paul is saying here. God picked you, God called you, God justified you, and God glorifies you. Did you notice that this is all God, and not us. He chose you before the world began. The word that Paul uses here translated "foreknew" speaks of intimate knowledge. Much like *The Bible* uses when speaking of the intimacy between a husband and wife. Before God ever created the universe, He knew you intimately. He predestined you to be His child. If you are a believer this morning, it is because, before time began, God CHOSE you. Listen to the word that God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah:

"I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations." **Jeremiah 1:5**

This truth, while very difficult for some to grasp, cannot be "explained away". I do not claim to have a complete handle upon this reality, but it is truth nonetheless. In God's sovereign will, He chooses those who will be His. He picks them out, before they are even born, and He fulfills His purpose in them. If you are a child of God today, don't think for a moment that this was some great thing that you did. Your salvation was planned by God, initiated by God, and it will be completed by God. Therefore, God's sovereign plan for you CANNOT be stopped. He will do all that He has planned to do with your life. Do not worry about whether or not you will be completely glorified and presented spotless in the very image of Christ. It is a done deal. This is why I believe in the eternal security of the believer, because God Himself guarantees it!

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask The Father in My Name, He will give you." **John 15:16**

So, lift up your head child of God. You cannot be subdued by the trials of this life, for God will work then all together for good. And you cannot be stopped short of your final glorification for God Himself has predestined it to become reality. I love how Paul speaks of our glorification here in the present tense:

"....and those He justified, He also glorified." (vs. 30b)

Now, we all know that we have not been glorified yet. There is still quite a bit of sin left in these old fleshly bodies, can I get a witness? But as far as God is concerned, our glorification is a done deal. He has predetermined it to occur, and nothing can stop the will of a Sovereign God. Therefore, it's as if it has already happened, as far as He is concerned. Those He predestined, he also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, HE ALSO GLORIFIED. Nothing can stop it, friends. If you have been baptized into Christ Jesus, then you shall be remade in the image of Christ Jesus!

Cannot Be Separated

"What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare His Own Son but gave Him up for us all. How will He not also with Him grant us everything? Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the One Who justifies. Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the

One Who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Who can separate us from the love Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger of sword? As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, 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 that is in Christ Jesus our LORD".
Romans 8:31-39

If you were chosen by God, have trusted in His Son, and been delivered from all condemnation for your sins, then God is FOR you. No one or no thing can ever separate you from the love of God. As we read earlier, if He loved you while you were still in your sins, loved you enough to die for you, then just imagine how He loves you after He adopted you!

Think about it like this: If you are "in Christ" then it is Christ Himself who sits at the right hand of The Father and continually pleads your case. Jesus, at this very moment in time is praying for you. In order for you to lose your salvation, then Jesus' prayers would have to go unanswered! Since He and the Father and The Spirit are one, this is an impossibility! Jesus prayers are always answered in the affirmative. If He therefore is praying for you and The Spirit is praying for you, then you cannot ever be separated from God's love.

Paul goes to great lengths to assure believers in this passage that there is no "created thing" (including yourself) that can pull you out of Christ. Let that sink in... there is only one thing in the universe that wasn't created by God, and that... was God! Everything else, the world, the cosmos, the heavens, the angels, Satan and his fallen angels were all created at some point by God. And not a single one of those created things has the power to undo God's plan for your life. That is how we can know that all things work together for the good of those who love God who are called according to His purpose. The bond you have in Christ is inseparable. Or as Dr. John MacArthur has stated:

"For a believer to lose his salvation would be for God to fail in His divine purpose and to condemn to hell those whom He had sovereignly elected to redemption. It would be for God (Who cannot lie) to break His covenant with Himself, made before the foundation of the earth."
John MacArthur (Commentary on Romans)

Those who have been truly born again in Christ have nothing to fear. Nothing can ever **separate** them from the love of God. The trials of this life, are being worked and woven together to accomplish God's perfect plan, and nothing can **subdue** the believer, nor **stop** them from becoming all that God has foreordained for them to be. If you have trusted in Jesus, then believe me when I say that you have **nothing** to fear! We, therefore, are "more than conquerors". The word that Paul uses there is "*Hypernikao*" (pronounced *hoop-er-nik-ah'-o*) and it literally means "hyper victors" or "super conquerors", if you will. I'll bet you never thought of yourself as a super hero, but in Christ that is exactly what you are. You are saved, kept saved, and your salvation made complete, all by the power of Almighty God, and in His strength you shall overcome everything that you will ever face. You cannot be separate from His love. Or as Moses has said:

"The God of old is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms..."
Deuteronomy 33:27

And let all of His children say... TRUTH!!!