

Because of God's Love

Romans 8:26-31

7/ 10/ 05

Intro

In Romans 8, Paul is telling us the amazing things that are ours because we are in Christ Jesus. The Law was unable to help us, but we are now in Christ. That opens for us a greater power over sin, and a new position in Christ.

Now, in these verses, Paul is further describing what God is doing in our lives because of being in Christ Jesus. All these are ours because of how much God loves us in Christ Jesus.

These are results of God's love for us because we are in Christ Jesus.

I. The Spirit Helps Us in Our Weakness

A. We do not know how to pray

- Prayer is to be an essential part of our relationship to God.
- Because of our weakness, we do not know how to pray as we should.
- Oftentimes, we pray because we want to direct God. Rather than turning our hearts to God, we desire to get something from God.

James 4:2-3, "You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

- Sometimes we pray with right motives, but just do not understand what God desires to do.

Illus – Jeremiah had a right motive in asking God to bring revival to Israel, but God knew they must be taken to exile in Babylon to once and of all end their heart for idolatry.

Illus – There are times when something seems perfectly right, we see only good in God saying yes. But when God says no, it's because He knows that we don't know how to pray.

B. The Spirit intercedes for us

- So, Paul says, the Spirit intercedes for us.
- (verse 27) the Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God. In other words, we do not know how to pray because we do not know the will of God, but the Holy Spirit does.
- And the Father knows the mind of the Spirit when he asks in our behalf.
- When we pray, then, we should pray what is in our heart, but be sure to remain in place of staying open in that God may want to do something very different than what I think.

Matthew 6:9-10, "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name; Your kingdom come; Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'"

C. With groanings too deep for words

- The meaning of this phrase is certainly debated. It's clear that it is related to prayer.
- Some believe that it is related to what is called "prayer language." This is prayer of the spirit which is prayer not made with intelligible words, but rather with a gift of a prayer utterance "too deep for words." That is possible, but not clear from the context.
- It is interesting to note in the previous verses 22 and 23 the use of similar words. The creation groans because it is subjected to corruption; we also groan waiting for the redemption of our bodies; and in verse 26, the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. This is because of our weakness.

Illus – There are times when we want to cry out to the Lord and do not know what to say, but know that we need the Lord to intercede, to help us.

Psalm 6:2-4, "Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am pining away; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are dismayed. And my soul is greatly dismayed; but You, O Lord--how long? Return, O Lord, rescue my soul; save me because of Your lovingkindness."

- When the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, He intercedes according to the will of God. There is great comfort in knowing that understands my groanings and helps me in my prayers.

II. All Things Work Together

A. God is the cause for good

- This is a verse which is very often quoted and for good reason.
- There are many things that happen to us that we don't understand. It is so comforting to know that *all* these things God is using for good.
- God is preparing us for heaven and even though we sometimes can't see the good, by faith we trust God is working all things for good.

Illus – There are many biblical examples where God uses even very bad things for good things to result.

Genesis 50:19-20, But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

Illus – Then there's David hiding for his life in caves even though he had been anointed king, the Prodigal son running out of money and the land suffering a famine, and God not removing the thorn in Paul's flesh.

Illus – Then there are all those things that have happened to us that we were convinced were so bad, yet we later could see how God used them in our lives for good.

B. For those who love God

- Many people miss the importance of the second part of the verse. The reason that God saved us was so that relationship would be possible.
- Loving God is a command of the Law, but now with the Spirit, this is the fruit of what God Himself is doing in us.

Illus - We are called to love God extravagantly; remember when you first came to the Lord? Return to your first love.

Illus – Remember when you first were in love and how extravagant you were in expressing that love? I had a message of love put on the reader board of a restaurant...

I Corinthians 2:9, but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

C. And called according to His purpose

- It’s important to note that we did not invite God into this relationship, but that he invited us.
- He called us through the gospel, by the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of our being changed by His glory.

II Thessalonians 2:14, “It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 1:15-16, “But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,”

III. God is For Us

A. To be like His Son

- God knew by foreknowledge those that would be His and determined beforehand that those who responded to His gospel would be conformed into the image of Christ.
- That is God’s agenda. He is in the process of changing us to be like His Son.

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Philippians 3:20-21, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”

B. From justified to glorified

- We were justified when we were made righteous by the gift of God in Christ Jesus.
- And those who are justified are also glorified.

- God is just getting started when we first come to Christ. There is so much more that God not only wants to do, but is doing, and will do.

Illus – The process is called glorification; in other words the process of transforming us bit by bit. As Moses received glory, so we too by the Spirit – glorification.

II Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

C. Therefore who can be against us?

- This is like an open challenge. Since God is for us, who can be against us?
- This is to increase our faith. Know this – that God is for you and no one is greater than Him.
- The key phrase is – God is for you. He is not against you.

Psalm 27:1, The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?”

Jeremiah 20:11, But the Lord is with me like a dread champion; therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail.”

Conclusion

Faith is the victory. When we know these things are so, it changes every part of our lives. We can completely trust that He loves us and will always be for us.