

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

7) 16 OctRomans 8:1-39..... It's All About Certainty

INTRODUCTION

- Chapter 8 hits on 12 doctrines – Election, predestination, God’s foreknowledge, God’s calling, justification, condemnation, salvation, eternal security, spiritual adoption, joint heirs with Christ, perseverance, and prayer – all within 39 verses

Passage	Comments
Romans 8:1-8	<p>It is Impossible for Those in the Flesh to Please God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here’s a good indicator to know if you are saved or not – Are you concerned about what God thinks when you laugh at a coarse joke, watch a shady show, or have lustful thoughts about someone? Or are you oblivious to how God observes your thoughts, words and deeds? • v3. God condemns sin in the flesh – that means there won’t be sin in Heaven for us to worry about – SWEET! • v5. Those who are truly saved focus on godly things – though they may have struggles and weaknesses
8:9-11	<p>Believers have the Holy Spirit to Guide Them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. The Holy Spirit dwells within each believer • v10. Our spirit (the real us) is alive unto righteousness – Our focus after being saved is now centered on God • v11. Our bodies should be dead to sin, but God ‘gives life to our mortal bodies’ through the indwelling Holy Spirit – “All things become new” (2Cor 5:17) – new thoughts, new desires, new outlook – that we “may have life more abundantly” (John 10:10) – no worries, fresh hope, bright future, exciting blessings from God
8:12-17	<p>We Are Obligated to Live Right Since We Are Adopted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv14-16. Another indicator of being saved – being led by the Holy Spirit and receiving His testimony in our spirit – BUT HOW? Does He give us subjective feelings or objective criteria (substantial evidence) or both? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this – The Holy Spirit provides substantial evidence we belong to God through His fruit in our lives – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control ♦ Also consider this – Jesus would pray all night to determine God’s direction (Luke 6:12), so He was not waiting for a subjective feeling – We can get those after praying just 2 minutes
8:18-23	<p>Pain and Sufferings Are Part of this Life by Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v18. But the Glory that awaits us has no comparison with the ‘paper-cut’ pains we might now experience
8:24-25	<p>We are Saved in Hope (Faith & Hope are Intertwined)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are positively saved, but it is unrealized – Similar to inheriting \$1M, but the money is not in the bank yet
8:26-27	<p>The Holy Spirit Involves Himself with our Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are told to pray always in the Spirit . Eph 6:18; Jud 20 • This is not praying in tongues as some teach • Praying in the Spirit means to pray in line with God’s will and word, and not for selfish reasons..... James 4:3 • We are to pray intelligentlyPs 5:3; 1Cor 14:15 • We are to pray frequentlyPs 55:17; 1Thes 5:17 • Since we are not able to save ourselves, nor are we able to “add a single hour to our life,” it stands to reason we need God’s help to even pray properly • “...groanings which cannot be uttered” – Our mournful prayers are heard and transmitted clearly to the Throne

Passage	Comments
8:28-30	<p>God’s Foreknowledge Predestined Us to Be Conformed, Called, Justified and Glorified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are mainly two (2) competing positions on this: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The believer has no choice in believing (Irresistible Grace) – everything (election and predestination) is done for them by a sovereign God without the believer needing to be involved (Calvinism) 2. The invitation is open to all, God is willing to save all, God being omniscient knew who would believe, so His sovereignty predestined the elect to be conformed, called, justified, etc., (Arminianism) • v28. God works providentially on our behalf
8:31-39	<p>The End Result of All This → Assurance of Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v32. If God did not spare His own Son from the cross, then we stand to receive everything from God – Freely • v35-39. And NOTHING can unsave us – God won’t do it; Satan can’t do it; and we can’t do it either – WOW!
Food for Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Calvinists are right that Christ only died for the sins of the elect, why didn’t God have His elect, the apostles and disciples, physically nail Christ to the cross? • If Arminianists are right that the elect can will themselves into Heaven and will themselves out of Heaven then how can God predestine them for anything? • If Calvinists are right that Christ did not die for the non-elect then why would they need to go to Hell? Christ didn’t die for animals either, and they won’t be in hell

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Calvinists and Arminianist come in all flavors. In brief, not all Calvinist positions are wrong, neither are all Arminianist positions wrong. Neither will one chapter of one book resolve all the issues. It takes the whole counsel of God to sort through everything. Let God be found true & every man a liar (Rom 3:4)

NEXT WEEK: Romans 9-11. We’ll see God grafting in Gentiles; saving only the remnant who believe; hardening the rest; shutting up all in disobedience; and showing mercy to all

