

ROMANS

Week 9: Romans 8:18-39



MAY 11: OUR FUTURE GLORY

(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)

We live in a world in which we will do almost anything to escape from suffering. Pastor and author Peter Scazzero writes in *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, “In our culture, addiction has become the most common way to deal with pain. We watch television incessantly. We keep busy, running from one activity to another. We work seventy hours a week, indulge in pornography, overeat, drink, take pills — anything to avoid the pain...Sadly, the result of denying and minimizing our wounds over many years is that we become less and less human, empty Christian shells with painted smily faces.”

Similarly, Jesus says in John 16:33, “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.” There’s just no getting around it. Each of us will experience trials and sorrow. However, Jesus continues by saying, “But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

The apostle Paul echoes Jesus’ statement, writing in Romans 8:18, *Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.*

READING & JOURNALING:

ROMANS 8:18-25, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

What are at least three things we can look forward to in our future glory? (Read today’s passages carefully, and consider utilizing the cross-references in your study bible to discover other helpful passages.)

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I know there is much to look forward to when it comes to my future glory. However, I confess that I am prone to sometimes escape or or numb the realities of this world. Continue to help me be fully present with the realities of this life, knowing that You have overcome them all. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)

F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers).

Read: John 6 (Week 34, Day 1)

MAY 12: THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYS FOR US

(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)

Have you ever been in a situation in which you just didn’t know what to pray? You may have had some close friends or family asking if there’s anything they can do for you, or any specific prayer requests you may have, but you were experiencing such sorrow or confusion that you didn’t even know what to ask for.

Fortunately, we have a God who helps us. Romans 8:26-27 reads, *...we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.*

The Life Application Study Bible offers some wonderful encouragement on this passage. It reads, “With God helping you pray, you don’t need to be afraid to come before him. Ask the Holy Spirit to intercede for you ‘in harmony with God’s own will.’ Then, when you bring your requests to God, trust that he will always do what is best.”

READING & JOURNALING:

ROMANS 8:26-30

What is at least one situation in your life right now in which you’re really not sure what to pray for?

PRAYER:

Today, write out your own prayer to God. Come to Him without any fear, but in confidence knowing that the Holy Spirit will also be offering prayer for you. And His prayers are in harmony with God’s own will.

(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)

F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

Read: Matthew 19:16-30 (Week 34, Day 2)

MAY 13: GOD WORKS IN ALL THINGS FOR GOOD

(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)

It's one thing to experience the occasional *trial*, such as traffic jams, your car breaking down, or having the flu. It's another to experience something much more sorrowful. In these moments it's easy to wonder, *Can anything good come from this?*

The biblical answer, as difficult as it may be to accept, is that God works in all things for our good.

The NLT Life Application Study Bible notes on Romans 8:28, "God works in 'everything'—not just isolated incidents—for our good. This does not mean that all that happens to us is good. Evil is prevalent in our fallen world, but God is able to turn every circumstance around for our long-range good. Note that God is not working to make us happy but to fulfill his purpose."

As you read today, consider this: What is one extremely difficult situation you've experienced? In what way(s) did you eventually discover that God worked through this situation for good?

READING & JOURNALING:

ROMANS 8:26-34

What is one extremely difficult situation you've experienced? In what way(s) did you eventually discover that God worked through this situation for good?

How may God be inviting you to share your experience with others who are currently experiencing a significant life challenge?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I realize there's a difference between simple *trials* of life and severe difficulties that will forever change me. Nevertheless, I believe that deep down You have worked and will continue to work for good in every situation I experience. May I rest in this truth today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)

F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

Read: Luke 15 & 16 (Week 34, Day 3)

MAY 14: NOTHING STANDS BETWEEN US BUT LOVE

(Begin with 1-2 minutes of silence)

Romans 8 ends with two verses (38-39) which are well worth memorizing: *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

It's certainly one thing to read these words from the Apostle Paul and breathe them in to soothe your anxious soul. Music artist John Mark McMillan, however, writes this verse as if God Himself is singing it over you. Imagine for moment that God Himself is singing, and you're simply listening to His voice:

Nothing stands between us

Nothing stands between us, but love now

Nothing stands between us

Nothing stands between us but love

READING & JOURNALING:

ROMANS 8:35-39

In what ways is God inviting you to rest in the promises of Romans 8:35-39 today?

Consider taking the opportunity to write out this passage and memorize it over the next week.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, this passage is the ultimate reminder that absolutely nothing stands between You and me, except for the love you continually offer. Today, may I give up any self-centered desire to *earn* Your love, but instead rest in the truth that You offer it to me freely. May I rest in Your loving presence each day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(End with 1-2 minutes of silence)

F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

Read: Luke 17:11-37 & 18 (Week 34, Day 4)

MAY 15: JOURNALING

Take the opportunity to look up and write out two or three other passages that align with Romans 8:38-39. You may find it helpful to utilize the cross-references in your study bible.

F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

Read: Mark 10 (Week 34, Day 5)

