



COVENANT CHURCH

The Great Eight – Part 1

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Main Idea – Believers in Christ have the ability to have a close relationship with God that others do not have. God loves everyone, but He has given you favor. If God is for you, no one - or no thing - can defeat you.

Encouragement from Romans 8

- Romans 8 is one of the most inspiring chapters in the New Testament.
- It will help you reaffirm your identity when life gets hard, or when Satan attacks you with doubts and accusations.
- In the first seven chapters of Romans, the author Paul established that our problems in life all come from the condition of sin.
- Sin is like a virus that needs an antidote. **Romans 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (NKJV)**
- God’s anger is the consequence of sin. God is angry with sin because He is just and righteous. Sin suppresses – or covers up – truth. **Romans 1:18 – For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness (NKJV)**

Jesus is the antidote to the virus of sin

- God is for you, and is the stabilizing force that gives you hope and confidence that you will triumph in every situation. **Romans 8:31 – What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (NKJV)**
- God is for you because He chose you to have special privileges with Him from before the beginning of time. **Romans 8: 29-30 – For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. (NLT)**
- God has chosen you to have a special relationship with Him that parallels the relationship that exists between the Son (Jesus) and the Father.
- God loves all people (**John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (NKJV)**) but He has given you favor.

Know that God is for you because He sacrificed His Son for you

- **Romans 8:32** – 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?* (NKJV)
- God the Father did not spare Jesus from shame and excruciating pain. This was the hard part for the Father.
- The easy part was that He freely gave you everything you will need to become more like Jesus. **Matthew 6:33** – “**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**” (NKJV)
- You have the opportunity to become more like Jesus so that you can be His physical representative here on earth.

Know that God is for you because He justified you

- **Romans 8:33** – Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. (NKJV)
- *Justify* means that God has declared you “not guilty.” Even though you deserve a verdict of “guilty” God has – because of Jesus – made the legal decision that you are, in fact, not guilty.
- Jesus paid the consequence of the Father’s wrath because of sin. His wrath has already been satisfied. He is not angry with you.

Know that God is for you because He does not condemn you.

- No human being or spirit can accuse you, because God does not accuse you. Only God can bring accusations. **Romans 8:34** – **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.*** (NKJV)
- Here are four reasons God the Father has not condemned you:
 1. Christ died for you. **Romans 8:1** – **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.** (NKJV)
 2. Christ was raised from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is proof that everything He did and said was true.
 3. Jesus now sits in Heaven at the right hand of the Father. This is a position of power and honor.
 4. Christ is making intercession for you.

- Hebrews 7:25 – Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (NKJV)
- John 17 is a prayer Jesus prayed before He was crucified. It is an excellent example of how He brings you – and your needs - before the Father.
- Jesus is continually asking God that there will be unity among Christians, and that God’s love will be shown to the world through us.
- John 17: 20-21 – “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (NKJV)
- John 17: 23 – “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”
- When we seek those things, God has promised healing to our land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 – “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (NKJV)

Know that God is for you because His love is eternal and causes you to triumph in all things.

- Romans 8:35-37 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (NKJV)
- Even when you are in a bad situation, you will still be a winner. With God, no one, or no thing, can beat you.

Know that God is for you because the flow of His omnipotent love for you can’t be stopped.

- Romans 8: 38-39 – For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 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. (NKJV)
- Get in God’s flow in your life. He is in control. Nothing can keep you from victory.

Because God is for you and nothing can stand against you (Romans 8:31), declare these things:

1. I win in every circumstance and situation.
2. I can do His will and be conformed to His (Jesus') image.
3. I can approach Him at any time for any reason.
4. Guilt, shame and condemnation do not rule in my life.
5. My defeated enemies become my slaves.

Reflective Questions for The Great Eight – Part 1

Use the Bible verses from this sermon message to answer the following questions:

1. Why is it essential to accept the Father's declaration that you are "not guilty" before you can acknowledge the promises in the other Bible verses of this lesson?
2. **Romans 8:34** listed four reasons God declared you "not guilty." Can you explain those reasons in your own words? Do you think you could say them in a way a non-believer would understand?
3. Pastor Ricky said that Jesus' main purpose - right now - is to make intercession for all believers before the Father. Why, do you suppose, unity among believers is such a big deal to Jesus right now? (You might want to re-read Jesus' prayer in **John 17** to help answer that question.)
4. Say, out loud, the five declarations Pastor Ricky provided at the end of his message. Do you feel they summarize the declarations Paul wrote in **Romans 8**? Based on **Romans 8**, might you add - for yourself - any other declarations to the list?