POINT OF LIFE CHURCH

Don’t Be Misled About God

SERMON COMPANION | PERSONAL STUDY & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Key Scripture: Romans 8:31–39 • Sermon by Pastor Anthony J. Shetley

The Big Idea

The presence of suffering does not mean the absence of God’s goodness or love. Sin has affected the world and human life, but in Jesus Christ God has provided salvation, hope, and a future. Nothing we encounter can separate us from His love in Christ (Romans 8:35–39).

Sermon Recap

1 Let truth—not circumstances—shape your view of God

Scripture warns against being misled. Misconceptions and false teaching can distort our faith, so our understanding of God must be formed by His Word. God’s creation was good; the brokenness we now see is bound up with sin and its effects, not a failure of God’s goodness. Read Romans 5:12, 18 and consider why the world needs a Savior.

2 Recognize the realities of a fallen world

Romans 8 does not deny trouble. Tribulation is the crushing pressure of hardship; distress is the anguish of feeling trapped by it. Persecution is hostility because of faith and righteousness. Famine and nakedness describe unmet basic needs and material deprivation. Peril is danger; the sword points to violence and bloodshed. Death is an enemy, and even ordinary life carries strain, disappointment, and limitation. Spiritual opposition brings deception and temptation. These things are real, but none has the final word over those who belong to Christ.

3 Remember that God is for us

Paul asks, “If God is for us, who is against us?” (Romans 8:31). The message is not that believers will avoid suffering, but that suffering cannot sever Christ’s love. Jesus Himself acknowledged tribulation in the world and called His followers to take courage because He has overcome it (John 16:33).

4 Live with the promise of restoration

Creation itself awaits redemption. God will not leave the world in its present condition forever. Revelation 21:1–5 points toward a new heaven and new earth and God’s promise to make all things new. Meanwhile, trials can become occasions for perseverance, stronger faith, and deeper hope. In all these things, believers overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37).

Five Truths to Remember

- God is good, even when life is painful.
- Sin and its effects explain the world’s brokenness; suffering is not proof that God approves of evil.

- Faith in Christ does not exempt us from tribulation, distress, or opposition.
- No hardship, earthly or spiritual, can separate us from God's love in Christ.
- Our hope reaches beyond present trials to God's promised renewal of all things.

Personal Reflection

Where have difficult circumstances tempted you to question God's goodness? Which of the pressures named in Romans 8 feels closest to your present experience? As you reflect, ask whether you are interpreting God through your circumstances or interpreting your circumstances through the truth of His Word.

Consider one situation in which you need to hold firmly to the promise that Christ's love remains constant. What would steadfastness look like in that situation this week?

Study Through the Week

Day 1 | Romans 5:12–18

Trace the entrance of sin and death into the world, and the hope offered through Christ.

Day 2 | Romans 8:31–39

Read Paul's list slowly. Which hardship is most personal to you? What does Paul say it cannot do?

Day 3 | John 16:33; 1 Peter 1:6

Notice how Scripture speaks honestly about trials while still offering courage and joy.

Day 4 | Romans 8:18–25

Reflect on creation's groaning and the hope of future redemption.

Day 5 | Revelation 21:1–5

Picture the promise that God will make all things new. How does that future change today?

Day 6 | 1 Corinthians 15:58; Romans 8:37

Identify one faithful step you can take, knowing your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Carry the Message into Your Week

Believe: Hold to one truth about God's goodness and love. • Obey: Take one steadfast step in the midst of difficulty. • Surrender: Give God a fear or misconception that has shaped your view of Him.

Prayer for the Week

Father, guard my heart against misconceptions about You. When I face pressure, loss, danger, or uncertainty, help me remember that You are good and that Your love in Christ does not fail. Strengthen my faith, deepen my hope, and make me steadfast until the day You make all things new. In Jesus' name, amen.