

NO CONDEMNATION.

VIII

NO SEPARATION.

All things for good– Romans 8:28-30

June 23, 2024

Having spent eight weeks climbing, we've arrived at Romans 8:28-30; the peak of this towering mountain. From here we can see all things, and take in a view that stretches from eternity past to forever to come.

These verses have some intimidating words. But why did Paul write them? To bring comfort and assurance to a people groaning in a broken world.

Lewis Roderick preaches these famous words and shows us the 'good' God has for his people.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?

- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- How did Lewis define 'silver-lining' theology? *Can you remember a time you've been offered this (or offered it to someone else)?* How does this differ from Romans 8:28?
- What effect should verse 28 have on God's people? Try to think of a particular situation that would be lived differently if you took the truth of these verses to heart.
- Lewis spoke of the view from the top of the mountain 'stretching from eternity past to forever to come'. *In what ways have you noted God's sovereign work in your life?*
- Commit what God has impressed on your heart to prayer:
 - Praise God for his gracious foreknowledge and love for you in eternity past.
 - Confess ways in which you are not living in conformity with the image of Christ.
 - Thank God for giving you faith and working in you to make you more like Jesus.
 - Ask God to continue to transform you into the image of his Son through the Spirit.*

*Adapted from *Romans Eight* by Derek W H Thomas