

No Regrets!

Romans 8



Watchman Nee tells about a new convert who came in deep distress to see him. “No matter how much I pray, no matter how hard I try, I simply cannot seem to be faithful to my Lord. I think I’m losing my salvation.” Nee said, “Do you see this dog here? He is my dog. He is house-trained; he never makes a mess; he is obedient; he is a pure delight to me. Out in the kitchen I have a son, a baby son. He makes a mess, he throws his food around, he fouls his clothes, he is a total mess. But who is going to inherit my kingdom? Not my dog; my son is my heir. You are Jesus Christ’s heir because it is for you that He died.” We are Christ’s heirs, not through our perfection but by means of His grace. (*Source unknown*, Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author).

Big Idea: God will sanctify you; so, trust God and live in the present.

^{8:1} There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ... ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:1; 28-39 ESV)

Big Idea: God will sanctify you; so, trust God and live in the present.

No Regrets!

1. There's no condemnation (8:1-4).
2. God's plan is good (v. 28).
3. God uses all things to help sanctify us (vv. 29-30).
4. God secures our future (vv. 31-35).
5. Life's troubles cannot defeat us (vv. 36-39).

1. There's no condemnation (7:24-25; 1).

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...

^{8:1} There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...

Four foundational truths from (8:1-4).

- i. Jesus saves us from being wretched (7:25).
- ii. Jesus removes our condemnation (8:1).
- iii. Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death (8:2).
- iv. Jesus fulfilled the legal requirements for us (8:3-4).

2. God's plan is good (v. 28).

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

NO REGERTS!

Live without guilt and shame.

- i. Past mistakes don't define our future.
- ii. God uses our past mistakes.
- iii. The evils we've endured contribute to God's plan.

3. God uses all things to help sanctify us (vv. 29-30).

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's sovereignty brings us comfort.

- i. God foreknew you.
- ii. He predestined you to be made like Christ.
- iii. He made you a brother.
- iv. He called you.
- v. He justified you.
- vi. He glorified you.

God uses *all things* to make us more like
Jesus (vv. 29a; 5:3-5; James 1:2-7).

4. God secures our future (vv. 31-35).

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-- more than that, who was raised-- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Nothing can separate us from God.

- i. What then shall we say to these things?
- ii. If God is for us, who can be against us?
- iii. How will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
- iv. Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
- v. Who is to condemn?
- vi. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
- vii. Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (cf. v. 28)

1. **Seven questions** that drive home the truth that a believer's eternal salvation is completely in God's hands. (vv. 31-37)
 - a. **FIRST:** ³¹ What then shall we say to these things?
 - i. **A general question.**
 - ii. The next six make things more specific.
 - b. **SECOND:** If God is for us, who can be against us?
 - i. Obviously Satan and his demonic hosts are against believers (**Eph 6:11-18, 1 Pt 5:8**)
 - ii. But they cannot ultimately prevail. They cannot triumph over a believer.
 - iii. Because of God – and who he is – no one (*nothing*) can successfully oppose a believer.
 - c. **THIRD:** ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
 - i. “spare” = “withheld” **cf Gen 22:12**
 - ii. God spared Abraham's Son – he did not spare his own.
 - iii. Because God made the ultimate sacrifice for us, he certainly will not withhold lesser things that benefit our sanctification. **2 Pt 1:3**
 - d. **Now TWO LEGAL QUESTIONS:**
 - i. **FOURTH:** ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
 1. Satan is the accuser of God's people (**cf Rev 12:10, Zech 3:1, Job 1**)
 2. Satan may have something to bring against us – after all, in our

sinfulness we do some pretty terrible things.

3. But, "It is God who justifies" (**vv. 33b**), so any charge brought against us is thrown out!
 4. The image is that the judge himself has stepped down and paid the debt of the offender.
 5. Because of that truth who could rail an accusation against you?
NOBODY!
- i. FIFTH:** ³⁴ Who is to condemn?
1. This is related to charges being brought against God's elect.
 2. The condemnation is *future tense* – which means that Paul is speaking of eternal judgment.
 - a. So, who has God – the supreme judge – appointed to this task?
Jesus!
 - b. John 5:22, 27
 3. If Jesus is tasked with eternal condemnation, knowing that: "Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us" (**v. 34b**), means we have nothing to fear in eternal judgment.
 4. Remember **v. 8:1**? There is no condemnation!
- a. SIXTH:** ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
- i. Notice the context is the "love of Christ" not the "love of believers" (v. 35)
 - ii. This is important. The foundation of your salvation does not rest on your love for Christ but on his love for you.
- b. SEVENTH:** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? (**v. 35b**)
- i. Paul uses seven degrees of persecution, each of greater intensity than the last.
 1. These things are part of the "all things" in **v. 28**.
 2. These things, when you experience them, will conform you to the image of his son.
 - ii. ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."
 1. Quote of Ps 44:22.
 2. In this life the people of God must face much affliction (**cf John 16:33**)

5. Life's troubles cannot defeat us (vv. 36-39).

³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Life's tough

- i. Seven degrees of persecution, each of greater than the last (v. 35).
- ii. Sometimes life is bad and it's not our fault (v. 36).
- iii. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (vv. 38-39).
- iv. These things are part of the "all things" in v. 28.

Trusting God's plan and God's sovereignty
gives purpose to our pain (vv. 28-39).

Live life in the present, knowing that we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.