

The Main Idea in Romans 8: God is Sovereign. God Acts According to His Eternal Plan. God Controls the Events of Time and Eternity.

*First, Look For the Scriptures That Declare Who God Is.
Second, Look For the Scriptures That Reveal What God Does.*

Scripture Romans 8:18-39

Today's Study *How does God's sovereignty relate to my faith and daily living?*

- ① 8:1-8 God – according to His sovereign plan and sovereign power – has removed all condemnation from every person who is in Christ Jesus. God fulfilled all of the requirements of the law of sin and of death, by sending His own Son as the Offering for sin and by giving the Spirit.
- ② 8:9-11 God causes believers – in whom the Spirit of God dwells – to stand before Him . . . Spiritually alive.
- ③ 8:12-17 God causes all who are being led by the indwelling Spirit of God to be sons of God – people who can call God “Father” (~“Daddy”). God, the Holy Spirit assures believers that we are children of God and fellow heirs with Christ. We suffer with Him . . . that we may be glorified with Him.
- ④ 8:18-25 God gives us believers hope that the present, earthly difficulties are nothing compared to the glory to which we are destined. We have hope because we look forward to the full experience of our standing as sons and the redemption of our bodies.
- ⑤ 8:26-27 God the Holy Spirit helps the weakness of believers. We do not know how to how to pray (including not knowing what to pray for). But God the Holy Spirit makes our prayers right. And God the Son intercedes for believers with God the Father.
- ⑥ 8:28-30 God causes all things to work together for good for all believers who love God. God called people to be believers according to His eternal purpose. God foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified each and every believer. [Note especially: our “glorification”, which is still future for us, is – for God – already a finished work!]

- ⑦ 8:31-39 God is for us believers. God gave His own Son for all us believers. God freely gives us all things. God justifies each believer. Christ Jesus, God the Son, died for us, was raised for us, and is now at the right hand of God the Father interceding for each and every believer. God loved each and every one of us believers. God loves every believer with a love from which we believers cannot be separated. God's love for us is stronger than trouble, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or sword! God sovereignly – and eternally – loves each and every believer, in Christ Jesus, our sovereign Lord.

I should understand that God's eternal plan and sovereign power are the foundation for – and assurance of – my temporal and eternal hope!

- **The “Big Idea” – the Main, Recurring Theme of Romans 8 – is God's Supremacy . . . including God's Personal, Active, Effective, Sovereign Control of All Events for Every Believer.**

❖ *God Does*

– God Eliminates Condemnation, God Fulfills the Requirements of the Law for Believers, God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – Dwells in Believers, God Leads Believers, God Makes Believers Sons of God, God Testifies that Believers are Children of God and Are Heirs of God and Are Fellow Heirs with Christ, God Gives Hope, God the Holy Spirit Helps Believers Pray, God Causes All Things to Work Together for Good, God Calls People to Himself According to His Purpose, God Foreknew People, God Predestined People, God Called People, God Justified People, God Glorified People (for us, future . . . but for God, already done!), God Is For Us Believers, God Will Freely Give Us Believers All Things, God Chooses the Elect, God the Son Intercedes for us before God the Father, No One Can Separate us from the Love of Christ, Nothing can Separate Us From the Love of Christ, Christ Jesus is at the right Hand of God the Father Interceding for Us, No Circumstance of Living – or Death – Can Separate Us Believers from the Love of God – Which Love is in Christ Jesus our Lord

❖ *God Is*

– God is Eternal, Sovereign, Loving, Gracious, and Clear in His Communications

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING

[“Principles for Living” are (1) restatements of the truth found in the Scripture text, or (2) valid conclusions based on that truth. These “Principles for Living” are general principles for living faithful to God – as seen in this study of Ephesians.]

1. The most important element of Scripture – the part of Scripture that is most helpful in understanding present life and is most helpful in living faithful – is the element of that Scripture that reveals directly Who God is . . . and indirectly by telling us what God does.
2. What believers in all situations need most is the comfort and encouragement for faithfulness that comes from a personal relationship with God – based on trusting God’s sovereign control of all elements of every situation for every believer!
3. What believers living in spiritually challenging situations need most is assurance that God has – and is lovingly exercising – sovereign control of all the elements of their specific environment. Every believer’s eternal future is just as certain as God’s past actions for every believer!
4. For believers who are “overwhelmed” by difficult circumstances, there is no more relevant and comforting truth than the sovereignty of God – God’s absolute control over all the circumstances of time and eternity.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

If you see that a Principle for Living is true, think of a way it applies to your personal situation – a specific truth you should believe, a specific way you should think, or/and a specific action you should take in an actual situation of your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

MEMORY VERSE Romans 8:28-30 (NASB95)

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

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. ¹

FOLLOW-UP

1. Memorize Romans 8:28-30. Thank God for revealing these great truths!
2. For each Principle for Living that you understand is based on the Scripture of this study, create one Personal Application: Ask “So what?! What does this mean to me? How is this truth relevant to the situations I currently face?”

Determine how the general truth – for all believers in every situation – of this Principle For Living, relates personally and practically to you . . . specifically how this PFL relates to your personal obedience to God in the challenges you experience personally.

3. Follow-up Using the printed-out Scriptures, read section 1. How would you summarize what this section indicates about the things God does? Write down your summary. Compare what you wrote down to my summary statement for section 1. What does this understanding of what God does tell you about Who God is?

Do the same for each of sections 2 through 7.

4. In your own words, summarize your current, overall understanding of what Romans 8:1-39 reveals about what God does. (1 paragraph)
5. In your own words, summarize your current, overall understanding of what Romans 8:1-39 reveals about Who God is. (1 paragraph).

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK’S SERMON

Pray for the Preacher, that he will help you see God in the Scriptures.

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). (Romans 8:28-30). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.