

The Footsteps of Faith Series

Lesson # 15 “Righteousness means God is over us”

Romans 8:26-39

Scripture: Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.””

Introduction:

It’s quite fitting that we ended our last section talking about hope, because this section should make us all gleam with joy to be Christians.

Umbrella’s has someone ever thrown a rolled up pair of socks at you? Playing around as kids and even with my boys I sure like to have fun and throwing a rolled up pair of socks at each other is nothing short of great entertainment. You could think of me as the Rambo of sock throwing.

I would like to ask all the kids to come up front to help me with a little illustration. Each child is to get one pair of rolled up socks and go stand behind the line and try to hit me.

Now, I have each kid get a rolled up sock back in their hands and I get my huge umbrella out and hide behind it, telling them to throw away.

Of course no socks can hit me because I am hidden behind the shelter of the umbrella.

Transitional Statement:

Church, this world offers all kinds of hopes and dreams. The world promises joy, comfort and protection along the way, but God is our real shelter and we find real refuge under His protection for our souls.

READ: Romans 8:26-39

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lesson:

I. The Holy Spirit is there to help us

Romans 8:26-27

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A. "In the same way" here is probably connected to the groanings in the previous verses that explain the yearning of all things to return to God's original intention.

B. Here we see the Holy Spirit groan

1. That is the Spirit of God, that lives in each of us as Christians, deeply wants us to follow and be connected with God's intention in our lives.

C. "we do not know how to pray as we should"

1. It's probably quite understandable that in our humanity our prayers come up short.
 - a. Here the text points to our weakness or frailty.

2. Sometimes we ask for more than we should...like the mother who asked for her two sons to sit on either side of Jesus in heaven.
Matt 20:21
 3. Sometimes we fail to ask for the things we really need.
 4. Sometimes we find ourselves in the pickles of life and don't even know what to ask from God to help.
- D. So the Holy Spirit, wanting to fulfill God's desires in our lives, intercedes in our prayers.
1. You see, the Holy Spirit knows what we really needs.
 2. When I think of this type of intercession, I think of a time when I was a kid. I had this irritated rash on my hand about 2" in a circle.. First, I thought it a bug bite and let it go for a month. Then I decided it to be poison ivy because it itched so much, and tried all kinds of treatments over the months to come. This went on for a little over a year till I was really frustrated. Then one day my grandmother said let me see your hand. "Oh" she said you have ring worm, put this on and a week later I was healed. Grandma knew what was wrong and she stepped in a gave me the help I really needed.
 3. The Holy Spirit kind of does the same for us.
- E. Then when God searches our hearts and minds, He finds the proper requests and answers them.
1. One might think that God didn't answer my prayer, but have you ever stopped to think that the Holy Spirit might have changed your prayer and God did answer it.
 2. The Holy Spirit's intercession is "*according to the will of God*"
- F. Its know wonder that one of the terms used in the Greek to describe the Holy Spirit is Paraklaytos which means "*helper*" John 16:7

II. God works in our lives toward the good

Romans 8:28

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.

- A. To those whose hearts are in love God.
1. Maybe a check of what it means to be in love would help us understand this point.

2. To those are called (invited / appointed) according to His purpose.
3. To those engaged in carrying out God's will upon this earth.
4. To these !

B. God causes all things to work together for good.

1. The text does not say that everything will work out the way we want
2. Here is the idea that God will work to bring all things in our lives together in a collective for a collective good.
 - a. All things might include some hard times.
 - Maybe some suffering (2 Timothy 3:12)
 - Maybe some discipline (Hebrews 12:6)
 - Maybe some loss
2. Certainly a good question here is....are we trusting Him in our lives !

III. Then God has given us the ultimate example in Jesus

Romans 8:29-30

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.

A. God "foreknew" us

1. We were not like an unexpected child
2. But God knew each of us before the world was ever created.
 - a. Ephesians 1:4 "...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...."
 - b. Psalms 139:13 "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb."
3. i.e. we have been planned for !

B. Even "predestined"

1. In as much as, God has pre-appointed or predetermined the right path for us.
 - a. The choice is ours each day when we wake up.

2. His right path for us is to be “*conformed*” to the image of His Son
 - a. He sent His son to this earth to become a perfect sacrifice for our sins, and to set an example for us
 - b. So that we should know how to live before God.
 - So we should take on the form of Christ
 - Following in His footsteps i.e. be disciples
 - i.e. strive to be like Him.
 - * We sing the song “Oh to be like thee”

IV. God is our shield

Romans 8:31-32

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

- A. If God’s on our side who can be against us?
 1. Maybe here is the idea that when your standing by your big brother you are fully protected.
 2. This is not to say that Satan can’t come against us and that he can’t use other people or circumstances in his effort.
 3. But the point is that if God is on our side no adversary whether man or circumstance can hold up against you.
 4. In a way God is like our umbrella
 - a. We are protected under His shelter
- B. Here we are also reminded that God gave up all He had through Jesus on our behalf.
 1. And if He was willing to do that, He will also provide everything we need to fight the spiritual battles we face everyday.
 2. 2 Peter 1:3 “...His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness...”
 3. In other words we are fully equipped and lacking nothing !

V. Question # 1 “Who will condemn us?”

Romans 8:33-34

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

A. The question is rhetorical, because the answer is obvious.

1. No-one can bring a charge against or condemn the favored of God

-Can you imagine being in a court room savagely charged with some crime....only to look up and see the judge as your father.

2. And Jesus Himself even intercedes before the throne of God for us !

VI. Question # 2 “Who will Separate us from the Love of Christ?”

Romans 8:35-36

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

A. The “*who*” here is an interrogative pronoun pointing to who, which or what

B. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

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| 1. Tribulation? | 5. Nakedness? |
| 2. Distress? | 6. Peril? |
| 3. Persecution? | 7. Even Sword? |
| 4. Famine? | |

B. To begin with Christ loved us when we were unlovable Romans 5:8.

C. And even though these things might be happening in our lives...it doesn't mean that Christ has forgotten us, or doesn't love us or care for us anymore.

1. Even though we might be tempted to think so

Conclusion:

Romans 8:37

“But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.