

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Romans: A New Lifestyle

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Lesson 11: Glorious Conquerors Romans 8:18 - 39

At the end of the movie Patton, the famous general muses:

Roman conquerors returning from the wars enjoyed the honor of a triumph, a tumultuous parade. In the procession came trumpeters, musicians and strange animals from the conquered territories, together with carts laden with treasure and captured armaments. The conqueror rode in a triumphal chariot, the dazed prisoners walking in chains before him.

Sometimes his children, robed in white, stood with him in the chariot or rode the trace horses. A slave stood behind the conqueror, holding a golden crown and whispering in his ear a warning: that all glory is fleeting.

Paul describes Christians as glorious conquerors. But unlike Roman conquerors, the glory we receive is eternal!

Group Discussion:

As a Christian, why is it often difficult to feel like a glorious conqueror?

- Life itself – it seems that for Christians things get worse than they do for non-believers.
- Prosperity Preachers – they claim that their Christian life is full of blessings, breakthrough, promotions, favor and divine health.
- Sin – I sometimes still battle the same the same issues – over and over.

What evidence of Christ's victory do you see in your life?

- I have more hope than ever – because I know that God is for me.
- Worship – Consistency in attending and participating in Worship
- I can see the sin doesn't dominate my life as much – even though I fail occasionally
- I can see my spiritual gifts being used in the Church
- I see a change in Character and behavior

Read Romans 8:18 – 27

1. What words and vivid images in these verses underscore the difficulties of the present time? Explain why these difficulties don't compare with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Images and Words	Glory for Us
Present Suffering	Future Glory Revealed in Us
Creation Hoping for Freedom	Freedom from The Glory of The Children of God
Groaning, Pain of Childbirth	Adoption to Sonship Salvation Redemption of Our Bodies
Weaknesses	Help from The Spirit
Ignorance of What to Pray	The Spirit Intercedes with The Will of God

- **Value** – The joy and blessings of Salvation and God’s Glory far outweigh the pain and suffering of this life.
- **Time** – The time we spend suffering in this life (60,70, 80 years, etc.) cannot even come close to Eternity.

There is an old joke that asks, “Which is heavier - a ton of Gold or a ton of feathers? Answer: Neither because they both weight a ton! Well, in actuality, the suffering and hardships we face in life (And we will face suffering as Christians) are like one feather compared to the ton of Gold of the Glory that will be revealed that we will personally experience in the Glorious Kingdom of God.

2. How can our “eager expectation” (v. 19) help us cope with our present problems and sufferings?
 - First, we need to be eagerly expecting something better (The only way this present time is “*Your Best Life Now*” **is if you’re going to hell afterwards**).
 - We can weigh the problems of this world against our future glory and keep things in perspective
 - The expectation gives us some hope – that trouble will not last always. We are going somewhere that will be better.
3. How can the Spirit’s help also encourage us (vv. 26-27)?

Read Romans 8:28-39.

4. In verse 28 Paul speaks of “the good” and “his purpose.” What is God’s good purpose for us (v. 29)?
 - **The Good** – Not meaning that we have freedom from suffering, hardship or difficulties – be using the unpleasant and joyous things in life for our good – to build and grow Godly Character in us and to fulfill our calling (Moses 40/40).
 - **The Purpose** – God’s purpose is not to make us comfortable – but to mold us, shape us, conform us into the image of His Son. To make us more like Jesus.

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely, Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?" "Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times, we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

5. How do the words foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified help us understand how God accomplishes his purpose for us?

Words	Description
Foreknew	God knew by looking down the Corridors of time – that you would be in His family
Predestined	God has already determined you make and mold you into the image of Christ (it all according to your plan)
Called	The invitation to be saved and to spend eternity with Him already has your name on it and has already been sent out
Justified	God already sees you as a Saint, Not Guilty of the sins that separated you from Him (He's a "Goodfella").
Glorified	In God's economy, He already sees you seated in Heavenly places – a finished product – Glorified just like Jesus.

Some of us are a fish that hooked – and yet still fighting the process of being caught. Stop fighting and let God conform you.

One the more popular things these days are "*Baby Gender Reveal*" parties. The parent already know what child is going to be – but the guests don't yet – God already knows what He has made you to be - trust His process for you!

6. Paul asks: "What, then, shall we say in response to this?" (v. 31). How are you encouraged by Paul's answer (vv. 31-32)?

Question:

"What, then, shall we say in response to this?" (v. 31).

Response:

- **Declaration:** If God is for us who can be against us.
- **Demonstration:** He who did not spare His Own Son – but gave His life for our Salvation.
- **Determination:** God will freely give us all things we need to overcome (not to avoid) hardship and trouble.

I am so encouraged that not only am I on God's side – He is on my side. A little like playing spades and having the "Big Joker" the highest card in the deck and knowing I couldn't lose. O that we would walk in confidence that no man on earth or devil in hell can do anything lasting to me.

7. In verses 33 – 34 Paul imagines a courtroom in which God is the judge and Jesus is our defense attorney. How and why would they reply to any charges brought against us?

Paul states: "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?" (v. 33).

- Satan – The accuser of the brethren.
- Others – Those outside (and sometimes inside) the Church.
- Our own consciences often accuse us and attempt to make us feel unworthy of God's love.

Paul's point is that such charges cannot be upheld, not that they do not exist. Jesus pleads our Case and has paid our fine – God the Father declares us "Not guilty"

8. In spite of these things, why does Paul proclaim that we are "more than conquerors" (vv. 37-39)? How can these verses comfort and reassure you in the midst of difficulties?

Scripture	Encouragement
37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are "Super-Conquerors"• We are loved in, by and Thru Christ.
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life , nor angels nor principalities nor powers , nor things present nor things to come , 39 nor height nor depth , nor any other created thing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can be supremely confident in God no matter what.• Nothing Physical or Spiritual that can overcome us
shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nothing can separate from God love – God always loves us.• God's love for us is not based on us – but on the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

Thank God for the fact that the Holy Spirit gives us not only victory over sin but also comfort, strength, assurance and hope for a glorious future!

Keys for Living



Our suffering is often part of God's process and purpose to mold and conform our lives and character into the image of His Son.



A benefit of our salvation is having the Holy Spirit in us/with us to carry us through our trials and sufferings.



Being in Christ does not mean we will avoid life's difficulties, instead it means that we are to be conquerors over them.