



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



Rev. David Koch

Freedom and Assurance in Christ

September 7, 2008

Introduction:

Today we want to look at the second half of Romans. There are times in life when we face discouragement. We groan about our circumstances. We groan because we have challenges here on earth while waiting for Jesus to come back. Also, as believers we face real fears; the fear of abandonment, the fear of lack of God's love and support. In the second half of Paul's letter to the Romans, he addresses both of these issues. If you have your Bibles, let's turn together to [Romans eight](#) and attempt to gain some insight to apply to our lives today.

I. Freedom from discouragement – no frustration (8:18-30)

In this section of his letter, Paul deals with the very real problem of suffering and pain. Paul discusses three groans.

A. Creation groans (8:18-22)

When God finished creating, it was a good creation. But today it is groaning. There is suffering and death; there is pain which is the result of Adam's sin. It is not the fault of creation. Paul uses such words as suffering, vanity, bondage, decay and pain. He likens the pain to a woman who is about to give birth. The pain is not a useless thing. There is pain, but it will end when the child is born.

2. Believers groan (8:23-25)

The true believer doesn't focus on today's pain as much as on the glory of tomorrow. We groan because we have a taste of the glory to come. We want to see the Lord and receive a new body and serve Him forever. We now wait for the redemption of our body which will take place when Christ returns. Jesus Christ is coming back again. He has promised us that He will return. There will be a wonderful

transformation that will take place when He comes back again.

In [Matthew chapter 24](#) Jesus spoke of the signs that would indicate the end of the age: Deception, wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation ó RUSSIA and GEORGIA ó kingdom against kingdom, famines and earthquakes. All these are the beginning of birth pains; persecution of believers, betrayal, false prophets rising to deceive many people and increase of wickedness. The gospel will be preached to the ends of the world; then the end will come.

Jesus is coming and so is the end of the age. There are places in the gospels where we are encouraged to be ready because in the hour we least expect it, the Lord is going to return. No one knows the day or the hour, not the angels in heaven, but only God. We read in the book of Revelation about the magnificent place that heaven is. John had his vision and recorded what he saw and heard. The hope is that the best is yet ahead. We do not get frustrated by the pain and suffering we experience here because we know that someday our suffering will give way to eternal glory.

B. The Holy Spirit groans (8:25-30)

God is concerned with our trials and today the Holy Spirit groans with us and feels the burdens of our suffering and weaknesses. The Holy Spirit does more than just groan. He prays for us so that we might be led into the will of God for our life.

It is possible to become downcast and get discouraged, but if that is where you are today, let me encourage you to remember that the Holy Spirit is our helper and we can have freedom from discouragement. We already share the glory of God and our current suffering only guarantees that much more glory when Christ returns. We don't always know God's will, nor do we always know how to properly pray in line with God's will, so the Holy Spirit is our helper and intercedes so we might live in the will of God in spite of our suffering. God is at work in the world and has a plan for our good and His glory! Ultimately God's plan is to make us like Christ. The best part of God's plan is that it will succeed.

Paul also deals with being predestined. There has been a theological discussion about predestination for a very long time. Those whom God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, the image of Christ. The word predestined conveys the idea to know beforehand. Foreknowledge means that God purposed from eternity to love and redeem the human race through Christ. The recipient of God's foreknowledge or forelove is stated in the plural form and refers to the church. God's forelove is primarily of the corporate body of Christ and includes individuals as they associate with this corporate body through abiding faith and union with Christ.

II. Freedom from Fear – No Separation (8:31-39)

There is no condemnation because we share the righteousness of God. There is no separation because we experience the love of God. What shall separate us from the love of God? We don't have to fear the past, the present or the future because the love of Christ is everlasting and more powerful than any of the things Paul mentions here.

A. God is for us! The Father is for us and proved it by giving us His son. The Son is for us and so is the Holy Spirit. God is making all things work for us (8:38) There are times when we feel like everything

is against us, when actually everything is working for us. The conclusion is obvious. If God be for us, who can be against us?

God doesn't save us to destroy us. He is working and on our team. There are times we don't want to listen to Him as our captain, but really He wants you to succeed and thrive! We should enter each day with the assurance that God is for us. There is no need to fear, for God only desires the best for His children even if they have to go through some trials to receive His best.

B. Christ died for us! The argument here is that if while we were still sinners, God saw fit to send Christ to die for us, then will He not give us all that we need now we belong to Him?

C. God has justified us! Remember that being justified means to be brought in line with Christ and then we become just as if we'd never sinned. God declares us to be right in Christ. Understanding the meaning of justification brings peace to our hearts. We may accuse ourselves, other people may accuse us, Satan may accuse us for our past, but God has forgiven us and will not accuse us.

D. Christ intercedes for us! Along with the Holy Spirit, Jesus is also interceding for us so that we have grace and power to overcome the temptations that come against us. Intercession means that Jesus Christ represents us before the throne of God and we do not have to represent ourselves. Paul hinted at this ministry of intercession in [Hebrews 7:25](#). There are no more powerful prayers of intercession for us than the prayers of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

E. Christ loves us! We can fail God, but God will never fail us. In this last portion of this chapter of Romans, Paul explains that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ! What is it that you think would separate you from the love of Christ? Paul gives a list of things that cannot separate us from God's love. The list includes height, depth, things present, things to come, difficult things, trouble, hardship, famine, persecution, danger or sword and supernatural beings. Nothing in all creation will be successful in separating us from the love of God.

God never shelters us from the difficulties of life because we need them for our spiritual growth. God permits the trials for our good and His glory! He will not desert us in those difficulties. He is closer to us

when we go through the difficulties of life! **v. 37 – We are more than conquerors.** He gives us victory and more victory. We don't need to fear life, or death, or things present, or things to come, because Jesus loves us and gives us victory. This is a promise and we claim it for ourselves because we are in Christ. Believe and rejoice in this truth - nothing can separate us from His love!

We are free from judgment and have His righteousness. We are free from defeat because Christ lives in us by his Spirit and we share His life. We are free from discouragement because Christ is coming for us and we will share in His glory! We are free from fear because Christ intercedes for us and we cannot be separated from His love.

IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

Conclusion:

In Christ we have great freedom and specifically freedom from being discouraged and freedom from fear. I trust if you came here today as a discouraged follower, or as a fearful follower that through the word today you have been challenged and you will apply these truths to your life and live beyond those places of discouragement or fear. God is for us. He loves us. He is committed to our victory. Let His Spirit and His Word strengthen you to live life that way.