



GOOD NEWS

FOR A SIN SICK WORLD

Scripture | Romans 8.12-17

'No condemnation' in Romans 8.1 leads to 'no separation' in v.39. Those two realities shape salvation, but there is more. Tucked away in the chapter is the biblical teaching of adoption. God brings us into a family and new relationships. We are not alone. Understanding adoption helps the believer grasp the glorious blessings of salvation. The apostle outlines several of those in Romans 8.

Observation

Read Romans 8.12-17 several times then practice some observation skills by noting the following:

- Circle every reference to believers in vv.12-17.
- Bracket [For] in v.13 indicating reason.
- Draw a triangle around each reference to Father, Son, and Spirit in vv.12-17.
- Bracket [For] in v.14,15 indicating reason.
- Underline v.14 indicating a promise.
- Underline 'we are children of God' in v.16.
- Bracket [if] & [then] indicating a condition in v.17.
- Double underline 'heirs' in v.17.
- Now look back over your observations and answer the following:
 - What one word would describe the tone of the passage? (Joy, sadness, peace, etc.)
 - What idea stands out in these verses?
 - What idea or word do you not fully understand?
 - How would you summarize the meaning of the passage?

READ ROMANS 8.12-17 | Because I follow Jesus God is my Father.

What does Paul seem to want these Roman believers to do in vv12-13? What has put them (and us) in a position to do what he seems to want for them? (Rom 8:1-2)



What does Paul say that is true for everyone who follows Jesus? (v14) Why might being a “son” of God be desirable even if someone is a “daughter” of God? (Hint: What benefits might sons have enjoyed in the 1st century that daughters did not?)

Why might Paul have been contrasting two “S/spirits” when describing the condition of a believer? What is so astonishing about what Paul says is the case for Jesus’ followers? (v15)

What goes along with being adopted as God’s child? What is both reassuring and disturbing about having God as my Father?

READ ROMANS 8.18-25 | Because God is my Father I wait in eager hope.

How does having God as my Father change my vision as I suffer? What does having God as my Father have to do with waiting?

Why is my own salvation not the only part of our Father’s story that we are interested in? Why should God’s children be as “eager” as the rest of the creation? (vv19-23; Isa 65:17-25)

What does Paul mean by saying, “For in this hope we are saved?” (v24) What does the “firstfruits of the Spirit” have to do with the hope of those who have God as their Father?

How does Paul link hope with waiting? How does knowing God is my Father help me to wait with eager hope?

Why is my “inward groaning” during the pandemic simply a proxy/ small foretaste of what I ultimately long for? Why is eager hope crucial for seasons of struggle?

READ ROMANS 8.26-30 | Because God is my Father the Spirit helps me in my weakness.

How is inward groaning and suffering part of the weakness of those who follow Jesus and have God as their Father? How might we also be weak in praying?

In what ways might the Spirit help us in our weakness when it comes to praying? Why does having God as our Father matter when it comes to the Spirit’s help in all of our weakness? (v27)

Why is God’s will foundational for what Paul says we know next in v28? What important things does Paul not say in v28?

How does what Paul says in v28 flow out of what he says in v29-30? How does the Spirit’s interceding according to the Father’s will help weak believers in being those things that God has planned for them?

Why is my weakness no limitation during a pandemic if God is my Father?

READ ROMANS 8.31-39 | Because God is my Father in Christ I am confident.

What questions does Paul ask in vv32-35? How do the answers to those questions answer Paul’s questions in v31?

How does Paul answer his own questions in vv37-38? Why is Paul brimming with confidence?

Why should I be confident if in Christ God is my Father? What can I be confident about?

Application

1. What stuck out to you or challenged you in what you heard in the sermon or read in the text? How did the Spirit move you to respond?
2. Of the blessings and benefits mentioned on Sunday, which one(s) is dearest to you now?
3. According to this passage, what identifies someone as a Christ follower?
4. What emotions do you experience when you consider the fact that Christ followers are called “children of God”? What significance exists in being a child?
5. How might we encourage one another in the truth that God loves us as beloved children?
6. How does being adopted as God’s child and having God as my Father reorient what life is about as a follower of Jesus? How does having God as my Father change how I see a pandemic?
7. What might be different for me if during this (or any) season of struggle I could remember that even though I am weak, I wait in hope and confidence because God is my Father?

Prayer

1. Pray for doctors, nurses, and researchers working night and day to bring an end.
2. Pray that the Lord would shine his light into our darkened world.
3. Pray that despite restrictions FM families would gather and stir up one another.
4. Pray the Gospel Church would come alongside the Kirby family & give extra support.
5. Ask the Father to remind us each day that we are His precious children. Give thanks for each of the blessings of being adopted by the Heavenly Father.

Afterword & Response

- **ABOUT GOD** | What does this passage specifically teach about God?

- **ABOUT MYSELF** | What does this passage teach about myself?


- **NEXT STEPS** | What does this passage lead me to do next in response?



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