

Romans
Hope's Foundation- Week #5
Small Group Notes
March 12 and 15

Main Point: God is for us and He shows us that by His love!

Introduction:

During a recent video of a news anchor doing interviews after the tornados in Middle Tennessee he mentioned how everyone they interviewed stated something about God in the midst of the tragedy. With the recent tornados that occurred in Middle Tennessee and with the alarms going off concerning coronavirus, often times we can begin to question about the goodness of God.

And when we read passages like Romans 8:26-39, we wonder about how can a tragedy be good? The reality is that it isn't. But it's important for us to remember that God is good, not the tragedies themselves. And God can take things that are broken and leverage them for His purposes that are good. Understanding this truth, helps us to persevere and have hope in the midst of trials and battles we face.

In your life story, what have been moments that required you to persevere? What helps us to push ahead?

Context: Paul began the last part of chapter 8 by affirming that God is at work in all things and emphasizing God's faithfulness in the life of a believer. Paul assured first-century believers that they could persevere through suffering and persecution for their faith, because they are "more than conquerors" through Christ. As we examine this passage, let's consider these wonderful assurances that drive us to depend upon our great God.

Discuss:

1. Read Romans 8:26-30

- Everything in life is not good, but in the midst of it, God is.
- Salvation is a work of God from beginning to end
- God leverages all things to make us more like Jesus.

Explain: The promise of this verse is that God orders everything for believers so that all of life's experiences work together for our ultimate good. Not everything is good in and of itself, but God uses everything for our good (vv. 35-36). Jesus taught us that God's sovereign care for and guidance of creation covers even the death of a sparrow and the hairs of our head (Luke 12:6-7,22-34). The good news Paul spoke of is that God is in control of our lives, and He uses every situation in our lives to conform us into the image

of His Son, while we still demonstrate free will in surrendering to His plan and purposes.

What are the major obstacles standing in the way of us believing Romans 8:28? (Examples may be problems, dissatisfaction, temporary perspective vs eternal perspective) What can we learn from this passage that helps us to understand God's nature more?

How does knowing that we are a child of God help us to look at trials and struggles differently?

When you look over your life from the past year, can we say that we are looking more like Jesus? What may be some things that hinder us? What resources do we have to help us?

2. Read Daniel 3:16-26

- God leverages the first that was meant for death and leverages it for refinement.

Explain: No matter where we are in current struggles or difficulties, we must remember that the supply line from glory is never cut off and the storehouse from heaven is never depleted. God will not withhold anything from us that we need to persevere in our relationship with and ministry for Him, and everything becomes a way for God to reveal His goodness.

Based upon what you read, What does it mean to you to read that God leverages the fires of our lives for His glory?

Read Romans 8:31-34. What example does Paul give as the reason we can have confidence that God is a God of ultimate power and unlimited supply? Why is this significant? (Example: Difference in temporary power versus eternal power)

3. Read Romans 8:35-39.

Explain: Paul affirmed that nothing has the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The list of potential separators includes physical danger, spiritual beings, present and future occurrences, and powers above us and below us. To clearly indicate that absolutely no thing or person can come between the Lord and His people, Paul concluded his list with "anything else in all creation." Absolutely nothing can come between us and our Lord. Nothing can remove us from His family.

How do these verses support what we learned last week how there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus?

How do the words Jesus' shares in John 10:27-30 relate to Paul's words in these verses?

If you had to describe God's love based on these verses, what would you say?

Of all the things that are listed here, which of these have been an area of doubt or struggle? Based upon the discussion today, how does the love of God help you to overcome this area of doubt? (Be prepared to share from your own experience)

What is the relationship of God's love and victory in our lives?

Do:

Who may be someone in our lives that struggles with doubts or questions how God can love them? How could you use these passages today to share your faith with someone?

How did this discussion help you to encounter a struggle or trial with an attitude of victory and hope as a conqueror?

What things can you do in your home or at work to be more aware of the love of God and to help remind others of this truth?