

God's Good News About Righteousness

An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

by James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

Study 16. The Importance of Hope in the Believer's Sanctification

Romans 8:18-39

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17). (Study 1)
- B. CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness 1:18 - 3:20 (Studies 2-5)
- C. JUSTIFICATION: The Declaration of Righteousness through Faith 3:21 - 5:21 (Studies 6-10)

D. SANCTIFICATION: The Out-working of Righteousness in the Believer's Experience 6 - 8. (Sanctification means being set apart to God from sin.)

- 1. The Necessity of Sanctification in Relation to Sin. 6:1-23. (Studies 11, 12)
- 2. The Futility of the Believer's Sanctification by Means of the Law. 7:1-25. (Studies 13, 14)
- 3. The Power Source for the Believer's Sanctification – the Holy Spirit. 8:1-17. (Study 15).

4. The Importance of Hope in the Believer's Sanctification (Romans 8:18-39). (Study 16).

a. The believer in Jesus has the hope of future glory that surpasses present sufferings. 8:18-25.

1) What can a believer in Jesus, who suffers at the present time, anticipate in the future? _____ 8:18.

2) For what does all of creation eagerly await? _____
_____ 8:19. What does this mean? _____
_____.

a) What does Isaiah 2:1-4 add to this subject? _____
_____.

b) What does Isaiah 11:1-9 add to this discussion? _____
_____.

3) In what way was the creation "subjected to futility"? 8:20. _____
_____.

- 4) What does Genesis 3:14-25 contribute to this discussion? _____
_____.
- 5) Evidently all of creation right now is in slavery to something. To what is creation enslaved, and how does this help answer the preceding question (in 8:20)? 8:21. _____
_____.
- 6) How is the future of creation tied in with the future of God's children? 8:21. _____
_____.
- 7) How does Paul describe what the whole creation is experiencing right now? 8:22. _____.
This is the first _____. What are some examples of how creation is now suffering? _____.
- 8) How does the suffering that all of God's creation experiences affect even us Christians? 8:23. _____. This is the second _____.
- 9) What do we believers eagerly await? 8:23. _____
_____.
- 10) How does hope enter into this whole waiting process? 8:24-25. _____
_____.
(It should be noted that Biblical hope is different from what we usually think of as hope. In popular usage we can hope for something that will *not necessarily* come true. In Biblical usage we have hope precisely because we know that what God has promised *will* come true!)
- 11) What is the relationship between hoping for something and seeing something? _____.
- 12) Biblical hope ties in with what other important quality? 8:25. _____.

b. The believer in Jesus has the hope of present and future goodness because of God's Sovereign control. 8:26-30.

- 1) The believer's hope is dependent on the intercession of the Holy Spirit. 8:26-27.
 - a) In what way does the Holy Spirit support believers? 8:26.
 - b) What limitations do we have in the area of prayer? 8:26.
 - c) What does the Holy Spirit do on our behalf? 8:26.
 - d) How fervent is the Holy Spirit on our behalf? 8:27. This is the third reference to _____. The others are found in 8:22 and 8:23.
 - e) How is God aware of what the Holy Spirit is praying? 8:27.
 - f) Why is the Holy Spirit an effective intercessor for the saints? 8:27.
- 2) The believer's hope is dependent on the predestination of God. 8:28-30.
 - a) What incredible hope do we as believers have because of God's activity in a believer's life? 8:28.
 - b) There are two ways that believers are defined in this text. What are they? 8:28.
 - i Those who _____.
 - ii Those who are _____.
 - c) How does this incredible hope in 8:28 relate to the activity of the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:26-27?
 - d) How does this incredible hope in 8:28 relate to the activity of God the Father in 8:29-30?
 - e) There is a certain group of people in view in 8:29-30. Who are they? The first designation given is that they are people whom God _____. 8:29.

- f) What does it mean when it says that God foreknew these people?
- g) What destiny does God have for those whom He foreknew? 8:29. _____
Why did He do this? _____.
- h) What did God do for those whom He has predestined? 8:30. _____.
- i) What did God do for those whom He called? 8:30. _____
_____.
- j) What did God do for those whom He justified? 8:30. _____
_____.
- k) Is there any “shrinkage” (loss) of people who are among the first mentioned (foreknown) to the group last mentioned (glorified)?
- l) What does this mean to you personally?
- m) How does Romans 8:29-30 relate to Romans 8:28?
- n) If Romans 8:29-30 were not true, could Romans 8:28 be true?

c. The believer in Jesus has the hope of eternal victory because of God's great love! 8:31-39.

- 1) A first series of questions ask what is the appropriate human response to God's sovereign care for His own. 8:31-32.
 - a) What is the first question asked? This question relates to us personally. 8:31a. _____
_____? How would you answer that question? _____.
 - b) What is the second question asked? This question relates to our opponents. 8:31b. _____
_____. How would you answer that question?
_____.

- c) What is the third question asked? This is a long one and it relates to what God will do for us. 8:32. _____

_____.
- 2) The next question relates to the issue of bringing legal charges against God's chosen ones. 8:33.
- a) What is the question? _____.
- b) What is the answer? _____.
- c) The logic is that if someone accuses those who are acquitted, he is charging the Judge who _____.
How much sense is there in that?
- 3) The next question relates to rendering a verdict of condemnation. 8:34.
- a) What is the question? _____.
- b) The answer focuses on Jesus Christ. There are four statements about Him.
- i What did He do? _____.
- ii What happened to Him? _____.
- iii Where is He right now? _____.
- iv What is He doing for us there? _____.
- c) Answer the question yourself. Is Jesus going to condemn us?
- 4) The next question and series of statements relate to who or what could possibly change Christ's position toward us. 8:35-39.
- a) What is the question? 8:35a. _____
_____.

b) What seven things are raised as possibilities? 8:35b.

i _____

ii _____

iii _____

iv _____

v _____

vi _____

vii _____

c) What evidence is given that Christians do indeed encounter terrible hardship and persecution? 8:36. (This is a quotation from Psalm 44:22.) _____

d) List a two or three hardships that Paul himself suffered for Jesus. 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. _____
_____.

e) What is the success rate of Christians when encountering life's hardships? 8:37a. _____.

f) Who is the one through we overcome obstacles? 8:37b.
_____.

g) There are ten things that cannot separate us. What are they? 8:38-39.

i _____

ii _____

iii _____

iv _____

v _____

vi _____

vii _____

viii _____

ix _____

x _____

h) What can these ten things not separate us from? _____
_____. 8:39.

i) How is God's love made known to us? 8:39. _____
_____.

5) Concluding questions:

- a) Are you a believer in Jesus Christ?
- b) Do you have hope?
- c) Is your hope based on feeling or on facts?
- d) What is the source of your hope?
- e) Do you have confidence as you live now in the present?
- f) Do you have confidence as you anticipate the future?
- g) Do you experience a sense of security in your walk with God?

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Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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