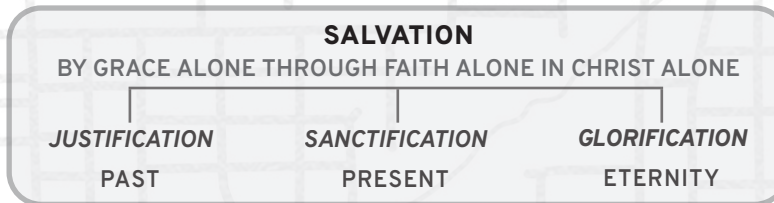




If God Is For Us ...

ROMANS 8:18-39



And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

I. What about my present suffering that causes _____ ?

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? vv. 22-24

GOD SAYS your patient endurance will be rewarded with future _____ .

II. What about my past sin that causes _____ ?

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. v. 28

GOD SAYS He's powerful enough to redeem your past and give you a _____ .

III. What about my uncontrollable future that causes _____ ?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? v. 35

GOD SAYS nothing will separate you from His _____ .

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. vv. 37-39



ROAD TO REDEMPTION

DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 8:18-39. In the sermon the pastor talked about the “But ...” exceptions we bring up when told that God is for us. How do you experience each of these in your own life?

But my present suffering causes pain ...

But my past sin causes regrets ...

But no control over my future causes fear ...

2. How do you react to the words “God says” in each of the sermon application points? Why is it so important that Christians stand on these words of God and know by heart what He says?

3. How much do you need to meditate on God promises, instead of our fallen state, from the last word of each sermon application? How will you ask Him to give you glimpses of what eternity holds in each of these areas?

glory (from pain)

purpose (from regret)

love (from fear)

4. Is it realistic to think that believers should not be shaken or cast down by suffering? Where is the balance between acknowledging despair and yet trusting in God? (See Paul's own experience with despair in 2 Cor 1:8-10).

5. What can truly give believers freedom from discouragement?

6. We groan as adopted children longing for our Father to usher in His promised future. Are you “groaning” today? We don't groan in despair or doubt because we have a sure hope—you will see Christ and experience the fullness of your salvation. In the meantime, how do we wait with endurance, bearing up under trials, because you have hope in God? Some Scriptures to inform your answer:

Jn 14:1-2 1 Pet 1:3-4

Eph 1:13-14, 4:30 1 Jn 3:2

Phil 3:20-21 Rev 12:10

1 Cor 3:12-15, 15:44 Job 1-2

2 Cor 5:10 Phil 1:6

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)

2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)

3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9) “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

“Sometimes Romans 8:28 is not easy to accept. But Paul did not say ‘We understand how all things work together for good’ to the believer. He said ‘We know that they do.’ We know many things we do not understand.”

VANCE HAVNER

“Sometimes when believers don't know how to pray in words, they groan. Sometimes we groan because of the intensity of our longing. At other times we are so burdened by our own mortality, or by our sin, that we can only groan. But what J. B. Phillips calls ‘those agonizing longings which never find words’ (Rom 8:26) are not to be despised, as if we ought to be able to put them into language. On the contrary, when we sigh with inarticulate desires, it is the Holy Spirit Himself interceding on our behalf, prompting these groans. We do not need to be ashamed of these wordless prayers. God the Father understands prayers that are sighed rather than said, because He searches our hearts. He can read our hearts and our thoughts and He knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit always prays in accordance with the will of God. And so the Father in heaven answers the prayers prompted by the Spirit in our hearts. There are times when we struggle to pray. When we are lying in a hospital bed too ill to speak; when someone we love is suffering so intensely that we are too numb to articulate our thoughts; when we are not sure if we should be asking God to relieve us of our suffering or give us the strength to endure it. But our inability to pray doesn't stop God's will unfolding in our lives. In those times, God the Holy Spirit carries our prayers to God the Father. And He always knows what to pray for because he knows God's will. How amazing that God prays to God on our behalf! And not only that, we have two intercessors: Jesus in heaven (Rom 8:34) and the Holy Spirit in our hearts, both praying to God the Father for us. Surely we are greatly loved.”

JOHN STOTT

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

ELDER AND DEACON ELECTION TODAY

Per the Christ Chapel Constitution, those in our fellowship who have completed the formal membership process should have received a voting link by email to affirm the nominations for Elders and Deacons. The results will be announced today at the Annual Meeting in the Oak Room at the Fort Worth Campus at 1 p.m. All voting must be completed by 12 p.m. today.

BAND OF BROTHERS If you had an audience with God, what would you say? Join Band of Brothers as they look at Job's conversation and journey with God during their fall study, Searching for God in the Land of UZ. Wrestling through the topics of God's sovereignty, His character and how our view of Him impacts our view of the world and ourselves. Claim a seat at Band of Brothers fall study at www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

WOMEN IN THE WORD Solomon was the wisest man the world had ever seen until Jesus came to earth. He loved the Lord, and his greatest achievement was building the Temple in Jerusalem. Peace, prosperity and influence marked Solomon's reign over Israel, yet his splendid reign ended in despair and decline. What happened? Join us in September to discover the answer as we study Solomon's life at Women in the Word! Sign up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

LUNCH AND LEARN: HOW TO TALK WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT LGBTQ

Here at Christ Chapel our goal is to partner with parents as they continue to share the hope of the gospel with their children, and we are devoted to providing resources that will equip you as you navigate various topics at home! On Sunday, September 8 at 12:30 P.M., our Dallas Theological Seminary's Lunch and Learn will focus on approaching LGBTQ at home, and we'd love for you to join us. Find details and registration at www.ccbcfamily.org/dtslunch.

WAIT WITH ME Struggling with growing your family? If you're facing infertility, miscarriage, adoption, or prolonged difficulty in growing your family, you're not alone. Wait With Me wants to walk with you during this difficult season. Join us for encouragement, community and biblical lessons as we learn to wait together with hope in the Lord. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/wait.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.