

C3HD Life Group Study/Discussion Questions
Wednesday March 4, 2020
Journey Through Romans - The Foundation of the Gospel
Scripture reference: Romans 8:12-30

1. What was your first job? What did you like/dislike about it?

2. Contemplating The Big Picture

- a. In what ways has our study through Romans given you a better understanding of the apostle Paul's heart? His intellect? His love for Jesus?
- b. Based off of what you know about Paul's life before his encounter with Jesus (as Saul), what has tangibly changed in him? In what ways is this evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit? How does this same evidence show up in our own walk with Christ?

3. Into the Message, Into Scripture - Prior to your life group, please have read and studied Romans 8:12-30. It will be extremely helpful for tonight's study.

a. As a quick reminder, the eighth chapter of Romans is when Paul reveals the work and the purpose of the Holy Spirit and His role in the gospel of Jesus. The eighth chapter is all about the Holy Spirit! Read Romans 8:12-18. This passage can be broken down into three main themes - The Holy Spirit gains us power over sin, He generates our adoption into God's family, and He guarantees us glory. Let's dive a little deeper into these three aspects.

1. The Holy Spirit gains us power over sin: Read verses 12-13 again. Here Paul reminds us that we are in no debt whatsoever to the flesh, but we are in tremendous debt to God. Since we have no obligation to the flesh, we are free then to submit to the Holy Spirit. Notice it is ..."*BY THE SPIRIT* you put to death the deeds of the body." What does his tell us about our ability to defeat sin on our own? Is it possible for flesh to defeat flesh? How then, do we allow the Spirit to lead us in putting sin to death? Discuss.
2. The Holy Spirit generates our adoption into God's family: Read Romans 8:14-16. In the Roman adoption system, and adopted child lost all relationship with their previous family, he or she IMMEDIATELY became a full heir of the adopting father, their name was changed to the fathers and their debts were wiped out (almost as if the person never existed previously), and they were legally and unequivocally the child of their new father. In what ways does this highlight the work of the Holy Spirit in not only our salvation, but in our lifelong journey with Jesus? Discuss the importance of these similarities.
3. The Holy Spirit guarantees us glory: read Romans 8:17-18. Notice the connection Paul makes. If we never suffer with Jesus, we won't be glorified with Him either. There is coming a day (and this is the guarantee) that the Holy Spirit Himself will glorify us with Jesus, but that day is not today. I said in my sermon that we'd better run from God's glory while we are here on this earth. What does that mean? Why is God's glory so dangerous for us? What does it mean to suffer with Jesus, and why do you think suffering with Him is tied to being glorified with Him? Discuss.

- b. Read Romans 8:19-25. Paul here is drawing a parallel between creation (i.e. the earth, the stars, the universe that God has created) and believers. Paul uses words like “eager longing”, “groaning”, and even the “pain of childbirth” to describe a feeling of unfulfillment. His point is that as followers of Christ, we acknowledge and fully accept that we do not belong to this world (read Jesus’ words in John 17:16), and as such, we will have a longing to be in our eternal home until He calls us there - when we pass from this life into the next. As a group, describe what this feels like. Is there a groaning and a yearning in your heart when you think about heaven? Who is responsible for creating that longing within us? What does Paul mean when he says, “hope that is seen is not hope”? Discuss.
- c. Read Romans 8:26. The Spirit supplies us with all we need to be faithful and children of God. But we sometimes still struggle. That doesn’t mean that the Holy Spirit struggles! He is relentlessly at work in us...He never, ever stops (read Philippians 2:13). The weakness that Paul mentions here is not so much a momentary weakness, but more a reflection of our sinful condition that God is working to conform our will to His. This is a process and we should be maturing in Christ as we go! What does a Christian who is maturing in the Spirit look like? Where in scripture can we find the characteristics of this? Based off of last Wednesday’s teaching, what does Paul mean when he says “we do not know how to pray as we should”? Do you find comfort in knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for you in prayer? Discuss.

4. Digging Deeper

Through this chapter of Romans, the fullness of the work of God for our salvation has become more and more clear. It has been revealed to us that God’s plan of salvation for His children proceeds roughly like this: God the Father made the plan, God the Son executed the plan, and the God the Holy Spirit makes the plan work! It’s vitally important to keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is constantly ministering to us, constantly growing us, constantly teaching us, and He’s constantly moving us. There’s an old gospel song that says, “it’s gonna be alright because God’s not through with me yet!” How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is in charge of our lives give us freedom? How does the promise of eternal life that you have become more real each and every day? Are you living, walking, and worshipping in the victory of Jesus? If so, how does the Holy Spirit lead the way? Discuss.