

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Romans 8. What questions immediately come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. Read Rom 7:21-25. How do those verses link to Paul's teaching here? What's the message of hope & certainty?
3. How does it feel to be absolutely judgment free in God's eyes? How does that shape your wants & desires? Why do you think that is so?
4. What admonition does verse 5 offer to disciples? What does it mean to allow your thoughts to "control" or "dominate" you? How does that happen in your life? What do you do in response? (See also Rom 8:7-8)
5. What is the difference in mind-set for someone who is controlled by the law of sin & death as opposed to being controlled by the Spirit? What exactly should we have our minds set on? (See also Col 3:1-4) How can we practically enable our minds to be controlled by the desires of the Spirit, rather than the desires of self? Is this culturally radical?
6. While God has met us where we are (sinners/enemies), he doesn't leave us there (i.e., he sends the Spirit to work to transform us). Is that true? Why? Do you think there are areas of your life in which you resist the Holy Spirit working in, or changing you? How do you deal with this? What are the implications of the Holy Spirit coming to live in us?
7. Verse 15 assures us the Holy Spirit does not make us slaves to fear. Instead we can cry out to God with the most intimate of names, *Abba, Father*. What does this intimacy & relationship mean to you? How does it affect your prayer life? How does it affect your daily life?
8. Paul reminds us that sin has corrupted all of God's creation. In spite of this we still experience great beauty, grace, & wonder in the created world. How is that "both/and" situation a testimony to God's on-going love for his world & for you? How does vs 18 offer hope in the midst of a corrupted & broken "groaning" world?
9. How do you see God working for good today? Do you see God working for good in & through your own life? Does Paul mean all things that happen "are" good? If not, what does he mean?
10. Saying that 'God is for us' is a staggering statement! How do we know that this is a fact? What are the implications Paul lists that flow from this assurance?
11. Paul extensively lists things that cannot separate us from God's love, therefore, nothing can separate us from God's love. The worst of this world, battles within or without, are no barrier. Do you believe this is true? What does this tell you? Paul acknowledges the pain in life (quoting Psalm 44:22). How does this enable us to live as overwhelming "conquerors" in the midst of that pain?
12. What does this text compel you to do in response?

Living Water Fellowship

5th Sunday in Pentecost – 10th July 2022

COME TO JESUS

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION GREAT ARE YOU LORD (ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS)

SONGS: *Here I am to Worship*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Romans 8:1-6

¹ So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² Because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. In that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit. ⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life & peace.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Romans 8:15-28 & 31-39

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently & confidently.)

²⁶ The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

²⁷ The Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. ²⁸ We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God & are called according to his purpose for them.

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith & not by obeying the law.

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

FAITH CHAT:

1. What things in life make you feel secure?
2. Our world seems a pretty uncertain unsettled place. How does the assurance & certainty of the gospel give you something not only to hold on to also share?

THE MESSAGE: *OPERATION GOSPEL: GOSPEL CERTAINTY*

OFFERING SONG: *Amazing Grace*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: To The Table (Zach Williams)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
Nothing can separate you from God's love in Jesus Christ!
Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Glorious Day*

SHOW HIS LOVE