

DESTINY

Eight Weeks in Romans Eight



The Greatest Chapter on Earth

THIS AIN'T HUGH JACKMAN'S VERSION OF THE GREATEST THINGS

In December 2017, a box office musical featuring Hugh Jackman, Zendaya, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, and many others took the country by storm. It was the telling of P.T. Barnum's rise to fame and the circus, and people, that got him there. The movie and songs claimed this was the greatest show on earth.

The book of Romans is by no means a show, but chapter 8 of Romans certainly is known as the greatest chapter in the Bible... probably the greatest chapter in all of literature. Many pastors, teachers, and theologians have made this claim, even at the risk of being contradicted.

Whether or not it is the "greatest" chapter, it certainly is a theologically and formatively rich chapter for the Christian. Over the next eight weeks, our church and Life Groups will journey through this chapter to see just how good our God is and our place in His story.

Schedule & Announcements

JAN 9 - FEB 27 | SERIES

JAN 13 - FEB 24 | CURRICULUM

ADULT MINISTRIES |

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
SUN, TUES, WED - JAN-MAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
THURS - FEB

PLAYDATES FOR MOMS
FRI - JAN-MAY

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE
AT LEGACYCHURCH.ORG

Destiny

ROMANS 8:28-30

Recap last week's discussion and premise.

Read Romans 8:28-30

There is an old instructional tool called the Heidelberg Catechism. Question 1 reads - *"What is your only comfort in life and in death?"* The answer - *"That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him."* In what way(s) does this question and answer correlate with our passage for today? (Specifically consider verses 28-30.)

What does the reference to "all things" primarily refer to in verse 28? (Consider the connection between verse 28 and verse 18, i.e. suffering is primarily in view here but all events of life are true as well.) In what ways are sufferings a "good" thing, especially when it comes to our Christian life? Based on last week's sermon, what did Pastor Kevin and Ann Marie caution us against when it comes to suffering? ("spiritual by-passing," if this term is unfamiliar or you were unable to hear the sermon, please go back to watch the February 6 sermon for clarification on spiritual by-passing.) Previously, how have you heard Romans 8:28 explained? Have you had a good experience or a poor experience with people quoting this verse to you during a time of pain or suffering? Why is it that using this verse might not be as helpful as what people think it will be? How might it instill hope in others?

What does Paul mean when he uses the word "good"? (Thomas Constable answers that question by saying - "The 'good' is what is good from God's perspective, and, in view of verses 18-27, conformity to the Son of God is particularly prominent.")

Does this section imply that God **causes** all things? Why or why not? Have you ever felt that God caused something bad in your life? How did you react to that situation and/or feeling? (Robert Mounce in the New American Commentary states "God directs the affairs of life in such a way that, for those who love him, the outcome is always beneficial. The 'good' of which Paul spoke is not necessarily what we think is best, but as the following verse implies, the good is conformity to the likeness of Christ. With this in mind it is easier to see how our difficulties are part of God's total plan for changing us from what we are by nature to what he intends us to be.)

Verses 29-30 have been called "The Golden Chain of Salvation" and refer to the order of events that highlights God's sequence of salvation for a person. Pastor Allen S. Nelson states, *"Each link is connected to the other in such a way as to form an unbreakable chain that ought to encourage the believer and bring tremendous comfort to any weary Christian soul."* What are the five events in this chain? (Foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified.) Do verses 29 and 30 provide comfort to your soul as stated in the quote above? Why or why not?

Nota Bene: Be careful not to get off track with the words used in these two verses, i.e. foreknew and predestined. This pericope does not engage the doctrine of predestination in such a manner that some might claim.

What does it mean to be conformed to the image of Jesus? (Think in terms of living, loving, serving like Jesus, as well as Gal. 2:20, Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:9-10.) In what ways have you seen your character and affections grow to be like Jesus over the years? In what areas do you continue to need growth? (Prayer, critical thinking, and evaluation should be used to determine areas where you need to grow.)

Is there anything else in this passage that you would like to discuss?

"God's intention, Paul emphasizes, is to bring to glory every person who has been justified by faith in Jesus Christ. Our assurance of ultimate victory rests on this promise of God to us." - Douglas Moo