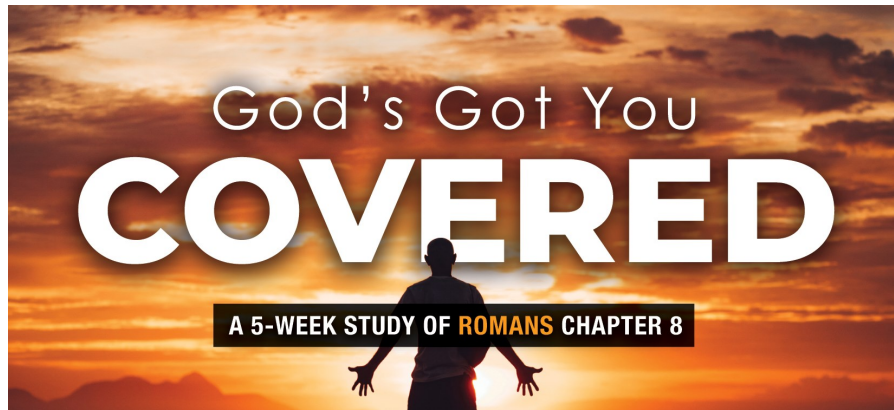


Understanding God's Forgiveness
God's Got You Covered Series - Week 1

Introduction: Studying the 8th chapter of Romans will give us both confidence and peace throughout this new year because we can know: God's got us covered! The chapter beautifully begins with "no condemnation," and marvelously ends with "no separation" for those in Christ Jesus. This is why the 8th chapter of Romans is one of the most cherished chapters in the Bible.

- **Note this:** Sin is anything we say, we do, or we think that goes against what God says. Anytime we do the opposite of what God says, it is sin. The Bible says in **1 John 1:8**, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." The good news is the Bible goes on to say in the next verse, 1 John 1:9, "But if we confess our sins to God, He will be faithful to forgive us our sins and make us clean from all our wrongdoing."
- **Note this:** The devil knows if we are imprisoned by our past, or allow guilt to grip us, or doubt that God's mercy is greater than our mistakes, we will stay trapped in a cycle of guilt that will prevent us from experiencing the life God has for us.

1. **An unbelievable truth we can believe.** (Romans 8:1)
 - **Note this:** Here's an important truth to remember: When God declares "no condemnation," it's not based upon our PERFORMANCE but on our POSITION. God declares a "not guilty" verdict upon everyone in Jesus, not because we are good enough, but because the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins was good enough.
2. **A fact we can embrace - Jesus did for us what we could never do - fulfill the demand for the penalty of our sins.** (Romans 8:2-4)
 - **Note this:** The law could not defeat sin; it could only detect sin. Only Jesus can defeat sin, and He did that on the cross.
 - (1) **In Jesus, the law can no longer condemn us.** (Romans 8:2-3)
 - **Note:** The demands of the law cannot condemn us because Jesus suffered our condemnation on the cross.
 - * **Isaiah 53:5:** "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed."
 - (2) **In Jesus, the law can no longer control us.** (Romans 8:4)
 - **Note:** Knowing the law does not produce the power to obey the law (what God says is right and wrong). But when we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, each believer has the Holy Spirit who helps us to do what God wants us to do. We will never live a perfect life this side of Heaven, but we can live a pleasing life to God with the Holy Spirit helping us.
 - * **Philippians 2:13:** "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."



Living Out God's Best Life For Us

God's Got You Covered Series - Week 2
Romans 8:5-17

→ **Different Characteristics of the Believer and Unbeliever**
(Romans 8:5-8)

Characteristic #1 - The unbeliever lives for self, whereas the believer lives for God.
(Romans 8:5)

Characteristic #2 - The unbeliever knows no peace because he does not know God. The believer knows peace because he knows God. (Romans 8:6-7)

Characteristic #3 - The unbeliever lives to please self, whereas the believer lives to please God. (Romans 8:8)

→ **The New Life Believers Have in Jesus** (Romans 9:9-17)

1. **In Jesus, believers have A NEW FOCUS.**
(Romans 8:9-13)

Seven ways to defeat sin in your life:

(1) **Identify temptation soft spots.** Hebrews 12:1: "... let us throw off every thing that hinders and the sin that so easily ensnares us."

(2) **Be aware of sin's slippery slope.** James 1:14: "Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away."

(3) **Confess sins sincerely and quickly.** Psalm 32:5: "Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, 'I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.' And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone."

(4) **Turn away from temptation immediately.** Proverbs 4:15: "Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving."

(5) **Change the channel of your thinking when tempted.** Romans 13:14: "... do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

(6) **Look for God-provided ways to escape temptation.**
1 Corinthians 10:13: "... When you are tempted, God will show you a way out ..."

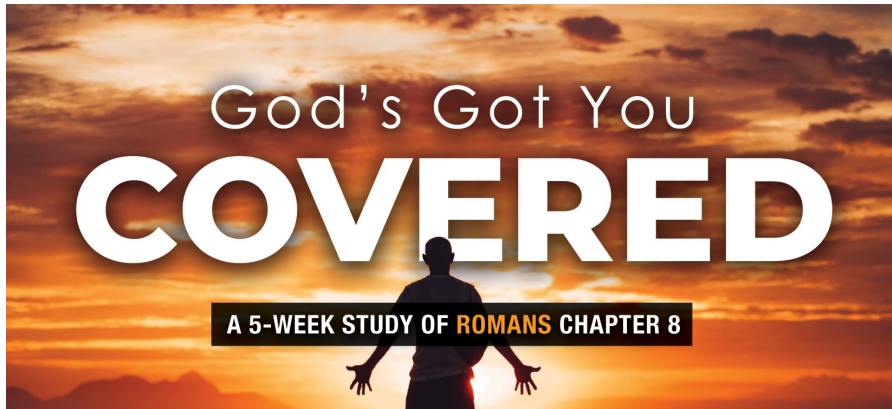
(7) **Fill your mind with good thoughts.** Philippians 4:8: "Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

2. **In Jesus, believers have A NEW FAMILY.** (Romans 8:14-15)

→ **Note this:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we become a child of God. God is our Heavenly Father. We are God's "son" or "daughter." And we belong to the family of God!

3. **In Jesus, believers have A NEW FUTURE.** (Romans 8:16-17)

→ **Note this:** Every believer is an heir of God and the full benefits of this inheritance will be poured out on believers throughout all eternity.



A Hope You Can Hold On To

God's Got You Covered Series - Week 3

Romans 8:18-25

Three major doctrines of the Christian life in Romans 8

- 1. Justification deals with the past.** We were saved from the penalty of sin (verses 1-4).
- 2. Sanctification deals with the present.** We are saved from the power of sin (verses 5-17).
- 3. Glorification deals with the future.** We will be saved from the presence of sin (verses 18-30).

To hold on to the hope God gives us ...

- 1. Focus on future glory more than present sufferings.** (Romans 8:18)

The Apostle Paul knew suffering -

See 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

→ **Note this:** Believers will have problems in this life. That's the nature of living in a sin-cursed world. Pain is guaranteed for everyone who lives in this broken world. When we become a believer, problems aren't removed. We may actually experience some new problems because, as a Jesus follower, we are often going against the cultural current. The Christian life is not about the subtraction of suffering but rather the addition of God's grace to get us through anything we face.

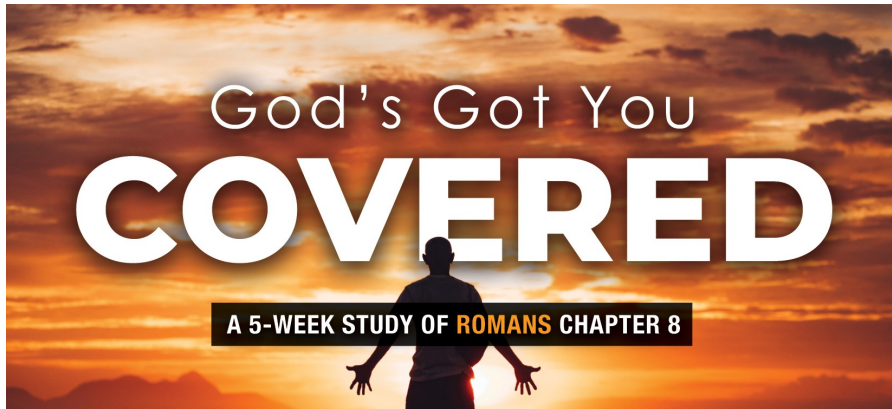
2. Remember that sin's curse will be reversed. (Romans 8:19-22)

→ **Note this:** When Christ returns, creation's corruption will be turned around, and Paradise lost will be Paradise restored. Not only will the children of God be restored to perfection but so will all creation.

→ **Note this:** All of creation waits for the time when its Creator puts all things together again, and everything in creation is called by its Creator again "good." One of the most quoted lines from a Robert Browning poem says, "God's in His heaven - All's right with the world!" Because God sits on His throne in Heaven, one day all will be right with the world again.

3. Endure pain and problems patiently because we have a know-so hope that tells us the best is yet to come for us! (Romans 8:23-25)

→ **Note this:** Although our bodies have not been redeemed yet, although we have not seen Jesus in person yet, and although we haven't seen other believing family members and friends in Heaven yet, we have a "know-so" hope that we will! All that we have believed by faith will one day be a reality - God says so!



Trusting God to Work Things Out
God's Got You Covered Series - Week 4
Romans 8:26-30

We're never alone when our hearts groan (Romans 8:26-27)

Ways the Spirit can help us:

1. The Spirit can help us when we're weak and weary. (Romans 8:26a)
2. The Spirit can help us when we're perplexed, and don't know what to pray. (Romans 8:26b)

→ **Note this:** When we feel weak, and all we can do is cry out, "Oh, God!" Paul reminds us, "Don't worry. That's enough. You have someone, the Holy Spirit, who is praying for you." (Romans 8:27)

When a promise can become a problem :

Problem #1 - When a promise is misused.

Problem #2 - When a promise is misquoted.

Problem #3 - When a promise is misunderstood.

→ **Note this:** God never allows pain without a purpose in the lives of His children. He never allows Satan, circumstances, or any ill-intending person to afflict us unless He uses that affliction for our good. God never wastes pain.

We may not be able to see it now, but not a single second of our suffering is ever wasted. God always causes all things to work together for our ultimate good. (Romans 8:28-30)

→ **Note this:** Joseph was a good man who didn't always experience good things. Before there was Romans 8:28 in the New Testament, there was Genesis 50:20 in the Old Testament: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Today's Take Away Truths from God's Word

Truth #1 - Even when something doesn't feel good - it can still be for good.

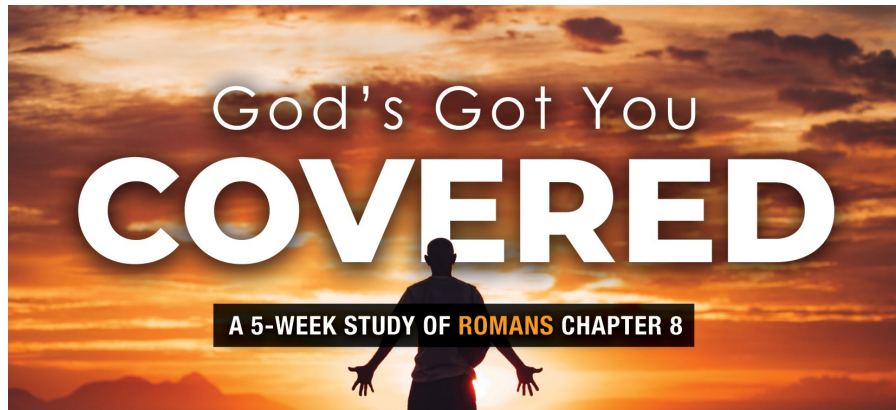
Truth #2 - The God who can turn a crucifixion into a resurrection is the same God who can turn our burdens into blessings.

Truth #3 - Sometimes, the bad things that happen in our lives put us directly on the path to the best things that will happen to us.

Truth #4 - Instead of zooming in and focusing on our problems - remember to zoom out and focus on the big-picture perspective of what our God can do.

→ **Note this:** Because God is all-powerful and all-knowing, has it ever occurred to you, that nothing ever occurs to God? Nothing can ever catch God off guard. God has never said, "I never thought of that." God has never said, "I didn't see that coming." God has never said, "I don't know what to do." Our all-knowing God knows every fact about everything, everywhere, and He knows it perfectly and completely.

Truth #5 - Knowing how THE story ends, should shape how we live in the here and now. God doesn't tell us we need to understand everything - He just tells us to trust Him. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



The Certainty of No Separation from God's Love

God's Got You Covered Series - Week 5

Romans 8:31-39

What shall we say for all God has done? (Romans 8:31a)

The Main Idea: If we are TRULY SAVED our salvation is TOTALLY SECURE!

Seven ways God secures us

1. God protects us. (v.31)

→ **Note:** Paul is not suggesting we won't have opposition in life because we all will have opposition from time to time. The point Paul is making is every opposition should be seen in the light of how big God is.

2. God provides for us. (v.32)

→ **Note:** The main proof that God is for us is the greatest demonstration of God's love for us, in that of giving His only Son. In providing His Son as the substitute and sacrifice for our sins, God was showing His ultimate provision for our needs. Our greatest need was for the provision of forgiveness and salvation which God provided by sparing not His own Son for us.

3. God purifies us. (v.33)

→ **Note:** J.I. Packer: "Nobody can produce new evidence of your depravity that will make God change His mind. God justified you with His eyes wide open."

4. God pardons for us. (34)

→ **Note:** Our sins deserve punishment but because of Jesus, God has pardoned our sins. We are now secure from every charge against us. If we are declared "not guilty" by THE highest Judge, God, then who can condemn us? Because of Jesus, we are now forever secure from all condemnation.

5. God preserves us. (vv.35-36)

→ **Note:** No matter what we face in life, nothing can break the bond we have with God. Even death cannot separate us from God's forever love. The only things that trouble can take away from us are the things that don't ultimately matter. The things that matter most, trouble cannot touch. God's preserving power keeps us saved and secure forever.

6. God prepares us. (v.37)

→ **Note:** We are "more than conquerors" even if we're dealing with health issues, relationship struggles, financial challenges, stress, worries, or fears. The key is to think less about the power of things over us and more about the power of God within us. The "more than conquerors" are believers who take the very things that are designed to be stumbling blocks, and in God's power, use them as stepping stones.

7. God promises us. (vv.38-39)

→ **Note:** When life feels unstable and we wonder what's going to happen next, how comforting to know that there is nothing that can separate us from the certainty of God's forever love for us. The security of our salvation is not based on our "staying" power but on God's "keeping" power. (See John 5:24; John 10:28; Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 3:5; 1 John 5:13; Jude 24)