

2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Life Group Study Guide

Romans: The Gospel for the Glory of God

Introduction and Overview

This sermon begins our series on Romans 8 entitled, “More Than Conquerors.” To help us grasp this magnificent passage, we must understand the main theme of Romans, and how chapter 8 fits into Paul’s flow of thought.

The theme of Romans is that **the gospel reveals God’s righteousness in Christ for all who believe, for his glory.**

In chapters 1-4, Paul explains how God reveals his righteousness by judging sinners and—at the same time—offering them his righteousness through faith in Christ.

In chapters 5-8, Paul deals with this question of our assurance and hope in this present life: If God has made us righteous in Christ, how can we be sure that we will overcome sin and death? Paul’s answer to that question reaches a climax in Romans 8. He declares that, as believers, we have God’s Spirit within us—giving us new life to please God (8:1-10), guaranteeing that death will not be the final word (8:11-13), assuring us that we are God’s children and heirs (8:14-25), and even praying for us when we do not know how to pray for ourselves (8:26-30). The chapter ends with a celebration of our assurance, in which Paul exclaims that “in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (8:37).

Discussion

1. The glory of God motivated Paul to write the book of Romans. See 1:23; 3:23; 11:36; 15:5-9; 16:27. Humans' failure to glorify God is the reason we need the gospel in the first place. Why is the glory of God so important? In what ways do we see God's glory obscured in the world? What are some of the most common ways we fail to glorify God?
2. The gospel is the message about a righteousness that comes from God, not ourselves (Romans 1:16-17). We tend to seek to establish *our own* righteousness instead of simply submitting to *God's* righteousness (see Romans 10:3). Why is it hard for us to submit to God's righteousness? Describe what a person's attitude and lifestyle looks like who is trying to establish their own righteousness. Describe what a person's attitude and lifestyle looks like who is submitting to God's righteousness.
3. As explained above, Romans 5-8 deals with the question of assurance. What specific things in your life tend to shake your assurance of God's love for you?
4. Have you ever gone to the wrong place to feel secure in your relationship with God? What are some false securities we can try to rely on?
5. Suppose someone came to you for help. They say, "I'm going through a very difficult time, and I can't see how God loves me." What steps would you take to help that person?