

# Romans 8

## 3 Assurances From Paul To Believers

A Christian once asked the question, "If you were shipwrecked at sea and stranded on an island, and a single chapter of the Bible washed up from wreckage, which would you like it to be? The answer was Romans chapter 8.

Charles Hodge called Romans 8 a rhapsody on assurance.

Rhapsody is an ancient word that means "songs stitched together". The Greeks used to write long poems in praise of their heroes, and then take bits and pieces of those poems and string them together for performance. In music, a rhapsody is a free-form piece that takes different tunes and strings them together.

The song stitched together in Romans 8 is the believer's assurance in Christ. What a wonderful theme to consider!

Horatius Bonar writes, “Uncertainty as to our relationship with God is one of the most enfeebling and dispiriting of things. It makes a man heartless. It takes the pith out of him. He cannot fight; he cannot run. He is easily dismayed and gives way. He can do nothing for God. But when we know that we are of God, we are vigorous, brave, invincible. There is no more quickening truth than this of assurance.”

Therefore, I believe the primary focus in Romans 8 is the blessed assurance in the life of the child of God. Assurance must color and fill our lives. What causes us to have assurance in this life as believers? The title of my message is simply, *3 Assurances from Paul to Believers*. What are some of the assurances Paul gives to believers in Christ?

### **1. We have the assurance of salvation.**

Many Christians have questioned assurance of salvation. They may be going through a time of emotional unsteadiness. Perhaps they have allowed doubt to creep in or are being led by their emotions.

They may be going through a time of spiritual dryness and they might not be experiencing joy in their spiritual walk. Some have even been taught that you can lose your salvation.

A theologian writes, "If we depend on works or obedient living to prove our salvation then we are faced with the following dilemma: If we are living obediently now (the supposed proof of salvation), the possibility exists that that could change in the future. If later on we cease to live obediently, then that would prove (based on the above premise) that we are not now true Christians in spite of our obedient lifestyle. So present obedience can never really prove our Christianity and thus, we could never have assurance."

Assurance of salvation does not come from a set of ideas, as though it were just another philosophy, nor is it found in an institution, but it is bound up in a Person: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son"; "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (John 3:16; Matthew 1:21). Jesus himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

When we turn to the Scriptures we find that salvation in a unique way is centered on the cross of Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist uses the Old Testament image of the sacrificial lamb when he points to Jesus and says, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Jesus Himself said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Therefore since the assurance of our salvation is in a Person, Jesus Christ, and in His Work, the Cross, Paul writes in Romans 8 verse 1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Believers have the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, and their sins are imputed to Christ. There is no condemnation to believers in Christ. The perfect righteousness of Christ is credited to the believer's account. Believers are now clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

We read in Romans 4 that “*Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*” But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works....”

A.W. Pink writes, “Whom God legally saves, He experimentally saves; whom He justifies, them He also sanctifies. Where the righteousness of Christ is imputed to an individual, a principle of holiness is imparted to him; the former can only be ascertained by the latter. It is impossible to obtain a Scriptural knowledge that the merits of Christ’s finished work are reckoned to my account, except by proving that the efficacy of the Holy Spirit’s work is evident in my soul.”

The Holy Spirit assures our hearts through the Word that we are the children of God. The witness concerning life in the Son is really the message the Holy Spirit bears witness to in the Word.

Romans 8:15-16, “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

In 1 John 5:7-11, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

C.H. Spurgeon adds a word of warning for us to examine ourselves regarding salvation, “Beware, I pray thee, of presuming that thou art saved. If thy heart be renewed, if thou shalt hate the things that thou didst once love, and love the things that thou didst once hate; if thou hast really repented; if there be a thorough change of mind in thee; if thou be born

again, then hast thou reason to rejoice: but if there be no vital change, no inward godliness; if there be no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then thy saying “I am saved” is but thine own assertion, and it may delude, but it will not deliver thee.”

Believers have the assurance of salvation because it is founded in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

## **2. We have the assurance that Christ is in control of our lives.**

We read in verse 28, “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

The sovereignty of God. What do we mean by this expression? A theologian writes, “We mean the supremacy of God, the kingship of God, the godhood of God. To say that God is sovereign is to declare that *God is God*. To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is the Most High, doing according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him what doest Thou? (Dan. 4:35). To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is

the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will (Ps. 115:3). To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is "The Governor among the nations" (Ps. 22:28), setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleaseth Him best. To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is the "Only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15). Such is the God of the Bible."

We read in 1 Chronicles 29:11, "Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all."

A.W. Pink writes, "A 'god' whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, possesses no title to Deity, and so far from being a fit object of worship, merits nothing but contempt."

Paul writes in Romans 8 verse 28 (read) *we know*. The Apostle lived in the reality that God was on the Throne, and nothing could change that. Neither our circumstances, nor our feelings can change the fact



that Christ is ruling and reigning in heaven over the events and affairs of men.

We read in II Cor. 6:16, “God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Nothing that we will experience or feel will change the fact the God is on the throne ruling and reigning over this world.

Furthermore, Paul writes *that all things work together for good to them that love God, to who are called according to His purpose*. We can depend on the Lord whether in times of sickness or health; in times of prosperity or poverty; in times of blessing or adversity the Lord is with us and all things will work out for our good and for God’s glory.

Christ demonstrated at the Cross that He was above all earthly and spiritual powers. John Calvin writes, “There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet (cross) on which Christ hath subdued death and the devil.”

Is God ruling your life? Is He in control or are you in control?

We have assurance that God is ruling and reigning over our lives.

### **3. We have the assurance that Christ loves us.**

You might ask yourself, “Does God love me?” For the believer the answer is a resounding yes!

We read in verse 39, “Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 John 4:8, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

Romans 5:8-9, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Lord assures His love for us in Hebrews 13:5, “He will never leave us nor forsake us.” The word for never could be translated, “never, no never, no never will I forsake you.”

John 15:13, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

1 John 3:16, “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us...”

A famous theologian was once asked, “What is the greatest thought you ever had regarding God? He paused and thought for a moment, and then answered: Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

A favorite hymn of mine is, “Oh The Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus,”

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured,  
boundless, free!  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy  
love!

Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious  
rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise  
from shore to shore!

How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never,

nevermore!

How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call  
them all His own;

How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them  
from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the  
best!

Tis an ocean full of blessing, 'tis a haven giving rest!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of  
heavens to me;

And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

What about you who are here and not a believer in Christ, "Does God love me?" The answer is a resounding yes! Christ loves sinners! Christ died for sinners! Come to Christ and be forgiven of all your sins. The blood of Christ makes the vilest sinner clean.

Romans 8 assures believers of three blessed things: their salvation, God's sovereignty, and Christ's immeasurable love. Let us think upon these things on a regular basis. If you are here today and still lost in sin and darkness, look to Christ. He is the Light of the World! He is the Savior of sinners. Let us pray.