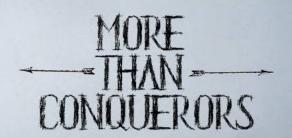
SERMON NOTES:



WESTERN MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

[Romans 8:31-39]

OPENING THOUGHT

Paul's letter to the Romans is a tremendous work of theology, and it centers entirely around the gospel of Jesus Christ. The first three chapters of Romans present the bad news that sin has utterly invaded humanity, meaning that there is not even one righteous person and that everyone is deserving of God's wrath. Fortunately, chapters four through seven reveal the good news that Jesus lived a sinless life and died an undeserved death in our place.

Romans 8 then explains the significance of believing the gospel. In verse one, Paul claims that because we have been justified before God in Christ, we no longer have any condemnation for our sin. Yet we are not only without condemnation, but the Holy Spirit now dwells within each follower of Christ, enabling us to cry out to God as our Father. Then, because of the Spirit, we also have hope that we will one day be glorified in Christ, forever living with Him and without sin.

In many ways, the final verses of Romans 8 serve as an epilogue to the first eight chapters, but for us, they also form a beneficial closing to the Seven Letters. In light of the gospel, Paul asks a series of questions that culminate in whether anything can separate us from the love of Christ, and his answer is that nothing can. With each of the seven letters ending with a promise "to the one who conquers", Romans 8 is a fitting reminder that in Christ we are more than conquerors.

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
- Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34)
- No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39)

READ VERSES 31-34 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

- 1. In verse 32, Paul claims that because God did not spare His own Son, He will also give us all things. What does Paul mean by saying we will be given all things?
- 2. Verse 34 displays that we are able to be without condemnation because Jesus died, rose back to life, and is now interceding for us. What does it mean for Jesus to intercede on our behalf?

READ VERSES 35-37 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

3. Paul provides a list of things that cause severe suffering while asking whether or not they are able to separate us from the love of Christ. His answer is that even in those things we are more than conquerors. How are we able to be conquerors in the midst of hardship and suffering?

READ VERSES 5-6 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

4. The apostle's aim with these final verses is to provide a wide, sweeping claim that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. In what ways does this verse speak to the security of salvation for a follower of Christ?

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Consider statements of verses 33-34. Have you been justified by God with Christ interceding for you? If not, repent of sin to Jesus and begin following Him. If so, take time to thank God again for the good news.
- Pray for the grace to know that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ and the longing to live accordingly.