

ROMANS(continued)

(8) continued: Some additional thoughts on 8:28: This verse is critical to our daily life because it is where we live....it is important that we realize the effectiveness of the Holy Spirit that is so necessary to help and guide us....Christ, sacrificed Himself for us and **outside us....so the Holy Spirit works **within** us.....after all, He knows us very well...we can, if we so desire, misrepresent ourselves to others, but we cannot fool Him...with all that He does for us , He is also close to us and very interactive with all we do if we choose to include Him.....some verses to remind us are: Ps.139:1- 6; Jer.17: 9-10; Heb.4:13.... But an iron-clad rule, the Holy Spirit always testifies of Jesus Christ, never Himself (Jn. 16:12-15)...He comes to guide us and glorify Christ...in this passage, Jesus is telling His disciples that He must go away, back to the Father, but He will send the Holy Spirit to continue to be within them and guide them....they will not be alone.....**

The verse begins with the word (in some translations) **FOR**....we can now go forward from here...**WE KNOW** (not hope so, or guess so or speculate)...it is based on all that has gone before in this chapter, and based on our own experienceswe can say "I know, I know, I know!"

There is another very important word and that is **WORK**...working is a process....one does not finish it all at once....ask any who use recipes, plants a crop, even an Olympian...events must work together...and that takes time....sometimes we learn more from our failures than we do from our successes....the shock of missing the medal in the Olympics makes them pay close attention as to what they did wrong (instant replay)....again, "Rome wasn't built in a day"we must allow differing elements, at various times, with others in the picture that we had not planned on to be there....to run the course....

There is another very qualifying word and that is **THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD**...God is working in the lives of those who believe....who have been **CALLED** according to **HIS PURPOSE**...it is not the person's plan and certainly it must be that the Lord has called you....another important component is that all things are not **GOOD**....we go through many trials that help to renew and reshape our decisions and goals

ROMANS (continued)

(8) continued: THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT....that is how we learnI believe that my grandparent's prayers are still being answered in my life...keep these words in mind: foreknew, ordained, called, justified and glorified....example: paper chains we made for Christmas tress...link by link? (vs. 8-29-30)

DISCUSSION: What is your relationship today with the Holy Spirit? You may have a (6) page outline of who He is and what He does, but do you have a living reality of Him guiding you and interacting with you

WHAT ARE SOME SIMPLE SIGNS OF CHANGE AND GROWTH PATTERNS:

- . from compromise to integrity
- . from covetousness to contentment
- . from hypocrisy to humility
- . from apathy to involvement

WHAT IS OUR STARTING POINT? The Bible tells us that a nation without God in charge will be difficult, depraved and deceived (2 Tim. 3:1-5; 14-17) ...also we are called "adopted children" and realize the key to practical holiness in our lives is **obedience** (God's holiness is His key attribute).... Our acceptance of Christ has added an enemy Satan, a hostile world, sometimes loss of friends...we are "salt, light, soldiers and farmers"(2 Cor. 12:10)...when we sense conflict, don't vent, visualize!

WHAT IS THE BALANCE AND KEY TO CONTENTMENT IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE? - my checklist is checked off already!

- . our perspective (8:18) - earthly VS. eternal values
- . our puzzling (8:24-25) - don't have the facts or know how they fit
- . our partner (8:26-27)- know the Holy Spirit is praying for me
- . our purpose (8:28)- know that the end will be good and His plan-
- . our provision (8:32) - I am provided with strength for victory
- . our protection (8:38-39)- nothing will separate me from the Lord

ROMANS (continued)

(8) continued:

ENEMIES OF CONTENTMENT IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE:

- . relationships (parent and child, husband and wife, sibling, friends, workers and stranger....you feel that you have been brought pain and something else, injustice!
- . physical -
- . emotional - anxieties, stress, distraction
- . mental - thinking is twisted, happiness is limited, dreams gone
- . social - loneliness and separation, resentment controls, not free to love, forgive, grow or edify
- . spiritual - potential is wasted, gifts are neglected, service is put on the shelf, God's plans are unfilled....

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

- . pain is universal - no one is exempt from trials
- . pain is a process
- . pain can be instructive and beneficial - (Ben Franklin said "those things that hurt us, can instruct us")

DISCUSSION TODAY:

- . What are some of the things that cause women anxiety?
- . Have you learned something this week in one of your experiences about trusting the Lord? Did you realize a peace that was different?
- . There are many "what-ifs" in our lives....what positive thing did you learn in the message today that will make it easier for you to trust the Lord? Something special that was new to your thinking?

NEXT WEEK: FINISH CHAPTER 8

- . List some of the things that can separate us from the Lord (8:35)
- . What would persecution look like to you?
- . List the things that Paul said would never separate us from the love of God?

POINTS TO PONDER: The measure of a spiritual life is not its ecstasies but its obedience (Oswald Chambers)