**The Book of Romans**

Part Three: God’s righteousness is revealed in His free gift of Spirit-life. (Romans 5–8)

***New Life: The Reality Behind Our Destiny***

***Or, Enjoying the Security of God’s Eternal Love***

***Romans 8:28-39***

Paul has recounted some of the amazing promises of God in the previous chapters, and we know that they are validated through the blood of Jesus’ Cross. But there is something deeper which serves as a foundation for even that, namely, the love God has for His people and His own glory. God’s children are not afterthoughts, nor are we saved begrudgingly by an angry deity. Far from judging us, God has loved us with an everlasting love, and in Jesus has perfected His eternal plan to call out a people for His name and conform them to the image of His Son. What Adam lost, Jesus has regained, and we now can live in confidence and joy, anticipating what is to come.

***All things are working together for our good because of God’s eternal plan.*** vv. 28-30

The sweeping promise of Romans 8:28 is made in the context of God’s purposes. The world is not careening out of control, only out of man’s control! Nothing, absolutely nothing, lies outside the unbreakable five-link chain of God’s sovereignty: We are foreknown, predestined, called, justified and then glorified. Paul speaks as if it’s all been accomplished because in the mind and plan of God, it already has.

We need not fear the idea of God’s choosing and calling those who are His. All who desire to be saved through Jesus will be saved through Jesus. The very fact of our coming to Christ means He has drawn us to Himself. The question for us is not “Am I elect?” but rather, “Have I come to Christ?” We love Him because He first loved us. All is by grace through faith, God’s gift. 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 2:4-6

***God’s eternal plan has been completed in and by Christ Jesus.*** vv. 31-34

Nothing and no one can stop God. And it is God Himself who has sent Jesus. Paul’s logic is compelling: If God is for us, who can be against us? But notice that the “all things” He gives are in and through Jesus. God is not a “blessing dispenser,” but a loving Father who pro-vides all things for His children through His Son. Colossians 1:11-20

***God’s eternal plan in Christ originates in and is motivated by His eternal love.*** vv. 35-39

We often hear it said, sometimes flippantly, “God loves you.” Here we see just what that means. God’s love for His children is not a superficial emotion, nor is it a fickle purpose based upon our perform-ance. God has brought us near through the blood of Christ, and now, nothing can separate us from Him. Nothing. And nothing ever will. God the judge has acquitted us through Jesus, and now this same Jesus is interceding for us. We are “more than conquerors through him who loved us.” So even death, life, future events, angels or demons can never separate us from Him. John 10:14-18

**How shall we live in light of God’s eternal, loving plan?**

***We make peace with God’s sovereignty.***

God gives grace to the humble. If we persist in our pride, acting as if our will is best, we will never have true joy in this life. James 4:4-10

***We respond to God’s invitations.***

We need not peer into God’s eternal decrees. The issue for us is NOW to say “Yes” to His kind and gracious invitation to be His children. All who come to Him will be received. John 6:35-40

***We trust ourselves to God’s love.***

Our link to God is faith, which is merely believing His promises and living in light of them. Faith is not a feeling, but a choice to follow Him rather than our own rebellious ways. John 3:16-21