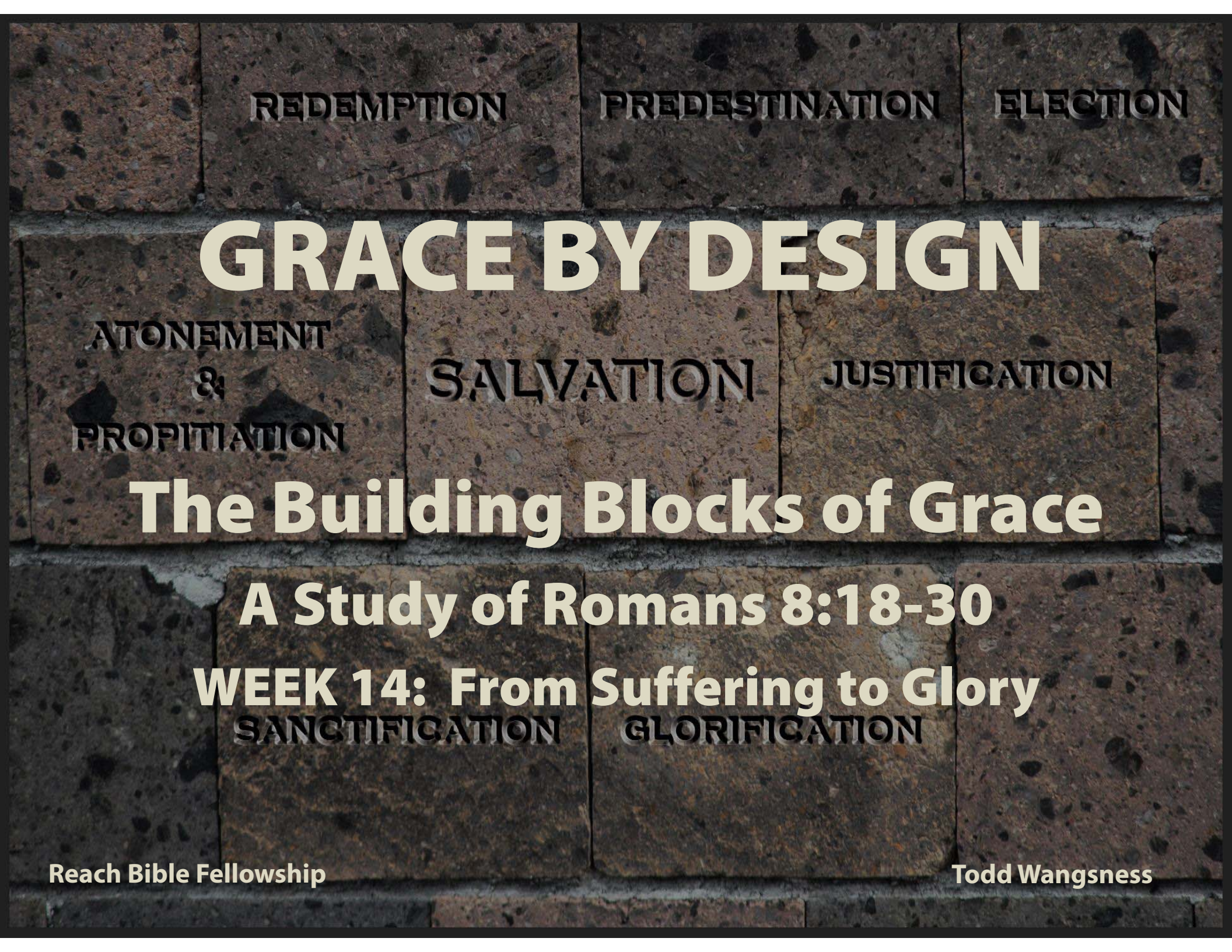


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 8:18-30

WEEK 14: From Suffering to Glory

Reach Bible Fellowship

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Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	**Rom. 8:18 – 8:30**	**Glorification – From Suffering to Glory**
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

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Notable quotes on Chapter 8:18-30

"The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. We are like children who are so eager to see the gift that we cannot bear the wrapping paper being slowly undone. But God, in His wisdom, knows the glory that awaits us is worth the wait."

- **C. S. Lewis**

"Hope is not a vague wish, but a patient waiting for what we do not yet see. Romans 8 teaches us that our hope is anchored in the unseen reality of God's promises, and we wait for it with eager expectation, knowing He is faithful."

- **A. W. Tozer**

"Romans 8:29-30 gives us the golden chain of salvation: foreknown, predestined, called, justified, glorified. This is not a cold doctrine but a warm assurance that God has been working for your good from eternity past to eternity future."

- **Tim Keller**

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8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- **There is only one answer amid tribulation throughout history … our hope in the coming of Jesus Christ in glory!**
- **Our theme verse (Rom 1:16-17) discusses that "the just shall live by Faith"**
  - **Paul shows us in these verses that we can continue to live by faith right up to the gates of glory!**
- **Paul was not ignorant or blind to the sufferings of human existence; he experienced more of them than most any of us today. Yet he still considered that the future glory far outweighed the present sufferings.**
- **The glory which shall be revealed in us:**
  - ***2 Cor 4:17-18 "For our momentary light affliction, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."***
  - **Without a heavenly hope, Paul considered the Christian life foolish and tragic. Yet - in light of eternity - it is the wisest and best choice anyone can make.**
    - ***1 Cor 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.***

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8:19-22 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

- *"earnest expectation"* **(Grk '*apokaradokia*' intense anticipation, craning one's neck to see what is coming)**
  - **Paraphrase: "The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own!"**
- *"subjected to futility"*
  - **The fall of man subjected creation to frailty and emptiness**
  - **The very physical creation was made void of value and useful direction due to Adam's fall**
- *"who subjected it in hope"*
  - **Only God could subject creation in hope**
  - **This was not ultimately the work of either man or Satan**

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- *"creation … delivered from … corruption"*
  - This deliverance and restoration is not to be confused with the new heavens and new earth described in Rev 21
  - At the advent of the millennial age, the earth will be supernaturally transformed and renovated following the devastation wrought by the tribulation

- *"glorious liberty of the children of God"*
  - The promised liberty of the children of God benefits not only the children of God themselves, but also all of creation

- *"the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now"*
  - "Creation is not undergoing death pangs … but birth pangs." (Morris)

- Man was given dominion over the earth, but with his fall, the entirety of creation was cursed
  - But, the day is coming (soon) when the earth will find its fulfillment!

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- **The revealing of the sons of God:**
  - **Certain groups with a "super-Christian" mentality have taken the idea that this 'revealing' means that all creation is waiting for their particular cabal of super-spiritual Christians to be revealed in incredibly powerful fashion**
  - **This is pure egotistical fantasy**
  - **Names associated with these heretical teachings:**
    - **New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)**
    - **Manifest Sons of God**
    - **Latter Rain**
    - **Dominion Theology**
    - **Seven Mountains Mandate**
    - **MorningStar Ministries (Rick Joyner)**
    - **Bethel Church (Bill Johnson – Redding CA)**
    - **Harvest Rock Church (Che Ahn – Pasadena CA)**
    - **International House of Prayer (Mike Bickle)**
    - **The Call (Lou Engle)**
    - **Council of Prophetic Elders (Chuck Pierce)**
    - **Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and many others**
  - **The Passion Translation of the bible should be avoided due to its association with NAR**
  - **NAR movement is unhealthily focused on angelic manifestations and "prophetic decrees" and is associated with "grave-soaking" and other highly questionable activities**

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8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

- **Back in Genesis 3, God detailed the penalties for Adam's sin, which can be summarized as:**
  1. **Curses placed upon creation that subjected it to deterioration**
  2. **Curses placed upon our bodies subjecting them to frailty, pain and degeneration**
- **Through Glorification, God reverses these curses.**
  - **"the creation itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption"**
  - **Our bodies will be glorified and made perfect!**

- *1 Cor 15:53 "this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality"*
- *Isa 11:6-9 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them … They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.*

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8:24-25 ***For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.***

- **The fulfillment of our redemption is something still distant, yet we hope for it in faith and perseverance, trusting that God is faithful to His word and the promised glory will be a reality**

- **Morris on perseverance: "It is the attitude of the soldier who in the thick of battle is not dismayed but fights on stoutly whatever the difficulties."**

- ***"but hope that is seen is not hope"***
  - **The day is coming when the believers' hope will turn into something that is PRESENT!**
  - **Because we have hope in this future reality, we wait for its fulfillment with patience and perseverance**

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8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

- **We see a parallel between the introductory verses of Romans (Rom 1:1-15) and the conclusion of Rom 8:26-39**
  - **In the first four verses of Rom 1, we meet all three Persons of the Trinity**
  - **We now see that Paul ends where he began … he assures us of our eternal salvation based on the work of all three persons of the Godhead**

- **The help that the Holy Spirit brings to express our groanings which cannot be uttered <u>may</u> include praying in the spiritual gift of tongues (1 Cor 14:2, 14-15), but it is certainly not limited to praying in an unknown tongue.**

- **The idea is simply of communication beyond our ability to express - deep groanings within us, which cannot be articulated apart from the interceding work of the Holy Spirit.**

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8:27 ***Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

- **The Holy Spirit's help in intercession is perfect, because He searches the hearts of those whom He helps, and He is able to guide our prayers according to the will of God**

- **The Holy Spirit within us constantly prays for each and every believer**
  - **The Spirit ALWAYS prays according to the Will of the Father**
  - **His prayers will always be answered**

Grace By Design: From Suffering to Glory

8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- **God's sovereignty and ability to manage every aspect of our lives is demonstrated in the fact that all things work together for good to those who love God, though we must face the sufferings of this present time (Romans 8:18)**
- **God is able to even make those sufferings work together for our good and His good**
- **God is able to work ALL THINGS, not some things**
  - **He works them for good together, not in isolation**
  - **We who love God can rest assured that – regardless of our circumstances – God IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL!**
- **This promise is for those who love God in the Biblical understanding of love, and God manages the affairs of our life because we are called according to His purpose**

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8:29-30 ***For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.***

- ***For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son***
  - **The eternal chain of God's working is seen in the connection between foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified**
  - **"*foreknew*" (Grk: "*proginōskō* to have knowledge beforehand due to preplanning)**
    - ***Act 2:23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death"***
    - **Likewise, God Himself determined beforehand to individually cause us to be born, be called at the appropriate time and usher us into His Kingdom!**
- **God didn't begin a work in the Romans simply to abandon them in the midst of their present suffering**
- **"Paul is saying that God is the author of our salvation, and that from beginning to end. We are not to think that God can take action only when we graciously give him permission." (Morris)**

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Questions to ponder …

- *"For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*
  - What does this portend? Is everything we see in the visible, physical realm going to be destroyed or disappear at some point?
- *"For the creation was subjected to futility"*
  - Why would Man's actions cause all of creation to be subject to deterioration?
  - Does the restoration mentioned later imply that the Law of Entropy will miraculously be suspended somehow?
    - *Entropy, a concept central to thermodynamics, has sparked philosophical debate regarding its implications for understanding the universe, time, and the nature of reality. It's often viewed as a measure of disorder and the inevitable progression toward a more random state, raising questions about determinism, purpose, and the meaning of existence.*
- *"All things work together for good"*
  - Does this mean that Believers' lead a charmed life?
  - Do you have some examples of negative circumstances in your life that turned out for good?
- Foreknowledge, election, predestination
  - Does God cause bad things to happen to work out His Will?
    - *Isa 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.'*
  - Did God "predestinate" believers individually or did He simply plan to have a specific group at this point in time that He calls the Church?