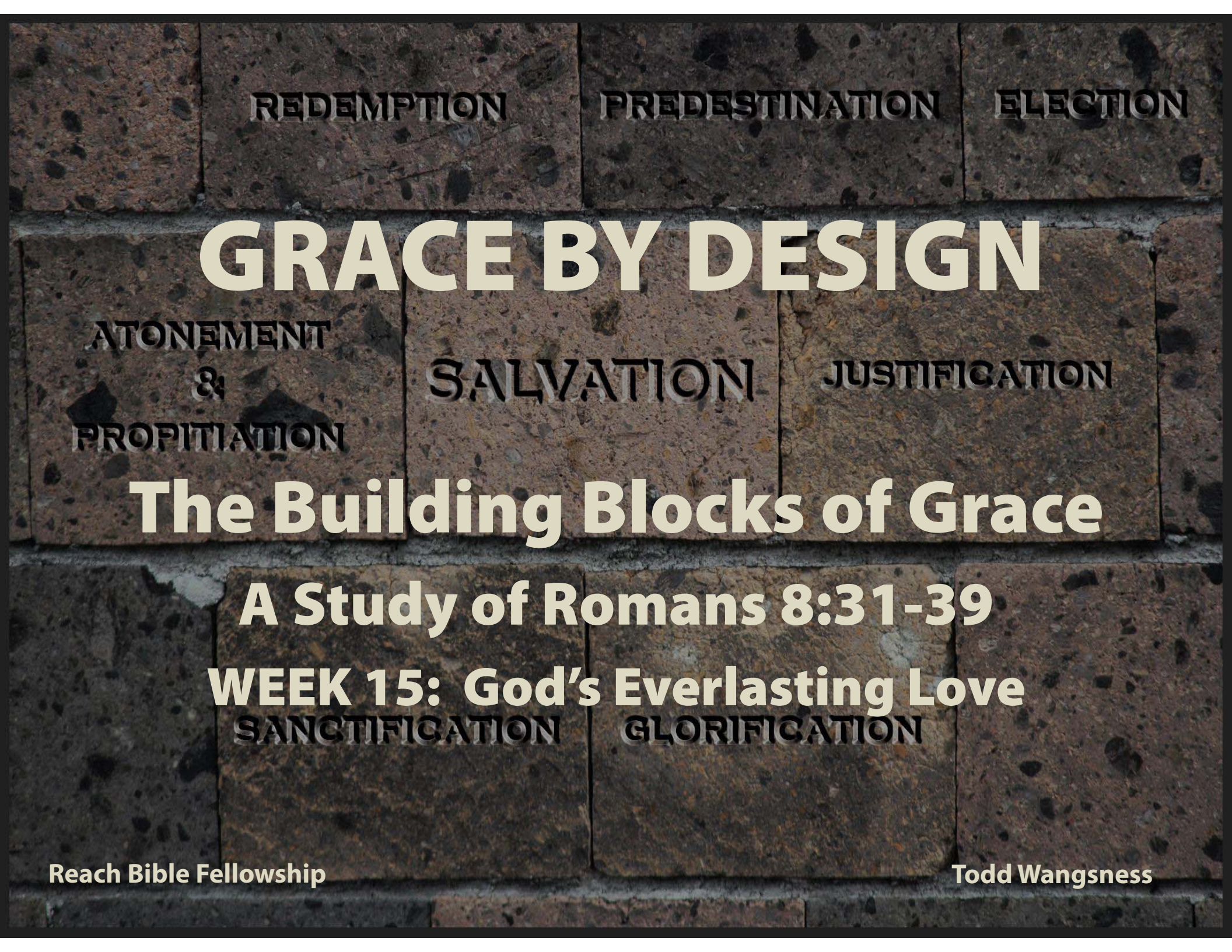


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 8:31-39

WEEK 15: God's Everlasting Love

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

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 8:31-39

"The rhetorical questions of Romans 8:31-39 are not merely flourishes of oratory; they are the capstone of Paul's argument for the certainty of salvation. 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' The answer is no one—not because there are no adversaries, but because no adversary can prevail against the God who has justified us. The love of God in Christ is not a sentimental affection but a sovereign commitment that neither angels nor demons, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation can undo. This is the bedrock of our assurance, the foundation of our hope, and the reason we can face any trial with confidence."

- **R.C. Sproul**

"In Romans 8:31-39, Paul is not offering a shallow optimism but a robust, cosmic assurance. He asks, 'Who can be against us?' and 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' not because no one tries, but because no one can succeed. The list he provides—tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword—covers every imaginable threat, from physical suffering to spiritual attack. Yet, Paul's conclusion is that in all these things, we are 'more than conquerors' because God's love in Christ is not just stronger than these forces; it is wholly other, untouchable by them. This passage is a call to rest in the certainty that God's love is the final word over our lives, no matter what we face."

- **Tim Keller**

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8:31-32 ***What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?***

- ***"If God is for us"***
  - **The Greek wording is even stronger …**
    - **If God is <u>FOR</u> the believers — and He is — then NO ONE can be against them!**
  - **Most all men say or think that God is for them — terrorists commit horrible crimes thinking that God is for them**
    - **Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit guards this statement with an "if," so we may know that just because a man thinks God is with him does not make it so**
    - **God is only for us <u>if we are reconciled to Him</u> through Jesus Christ**

- ***"Who did not spare His own Son"***
  - **If the Father already gave His ultimate gift, how can we think that He won't give us the smaller gifts?**
  - **Giving up His Son as the price of redemption was the harder and greater thing for God to do**
  - **The easier or lesser thing is to give all things to the believer!**

- ***"Freely give us all things"*** **(Grk: *charizomai*, gracious, kind, benevolent, grant forgiveness)**

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8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

- **"*charge*" (Grk *egkaleo*, to call in a debt, to bring to account as in a legal proceeding)**
  - **No one dares to bring a charge against believers**
  - **God has already justified us and declared us righteous**
  - **A charge against them is a charge against Him who acquitted the debt!**

- **We are secure from every charge against us**
  - **If we are declared "not guilty" by the highest Judge, who can bring an additional charge?**

- **We are secure from all condemnation**
  - **If Jesus Himself is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us?**

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8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- **Verse 34 summarizes all of Romans 6:1 – 8:17**

- **Only one Judge is possible, the Messiah, the Son of God!**
  - ***Joh 5:22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son"***
  - **If He will not condemn us, then neither can anybody else!**

- **Paul makes four declarative statements in verse 34**
  1. **His Death:** ***"It is Christ who died"***
  2. **His Resurrection:** ***"And furthermore is risen"***
  3. **His Position:** ***"Who is even at the right hand of God"***
  4. **His Intercession:** ***"Who also makes intercession for us"***

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8:35-36 ***Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:***

"For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

Tribulation:	**Refers to serious challenges and problems that afflict the saints due to the gospel**
Distress:	**Literally, "tight places". Internal torment caused by believers' hardships**
Persecution:	**Used 10 times in the NT. It always refers to true persecution for the sake of the gospel**
Famine:	**Hardship due to scarcity of food**
Nakedness:	**A term that describes any form of deprivation due to lack of resources**
Peril:	**The shadow of death or imminent danger**
Sword:	**Literally, a short sword or dagger. But, it figuratively refers to capital punishment**

- **Paul poses the question whether any of the above issues are able to separate us from the love of God. The answer is a RESOUNDING, NO!**

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8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

- **How is the Christian more than a conqueror?**
  - **He overcomes with a greater power — the power of Jesus**
  - **He overcomes with a greater motive — the glory of Jesus**
  - **He overcomes with a greater victory — losing nothing even in the battle**
  - **He overcomes with a greater love — conquering enemies with love and converting persecutors with patience**

- ***"We are more than conquerors …"*** **(Grk: *hypernikaō* - to vanquish above and beyond, to gain a decisive victory, overwhelmingly victorious, super-conqueror)**

- **The Believer is a super-conqueror not only out of the list of travails in the preceding verse, but also in them**
- **None of these trials can separate us from the love of God!**

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8:38-39 ***For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

- **Paul describes six realms or spheres of influence that can be used against us**
  1. **Human Existence: Neither death or life can separate us from God**
  2. **Angelic Realm: No evil angels, principalities or powers**
  3. **Dimension of Time: Nothing present nor things to come**
  4. **Human Powers: No evil persons, state nor government**
  5. **Dimension of Space: No height nor depth**
  6. **Entire Created Realm: Nor any other created thing**

- **Are you "created"?**
  - **The last 'sphere of influence' listed above says that "no created thing", including YOU, can separate you from the love of God!**

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- On this very positive note, Paul's discussion of the theology of God's righteousness comes to an end
- In Chapters 1 – 8, Paul has explained that – for the Believer:
  1. There is NO GUILT because of JUSTIFICATION
  2. There is NO SEPARATION because of SANCTIFICATION
  3. There is NO SEPARATION because of GLORIFICATION

- From God's perspective, all three aspects of Salvation are a DONE DEAL!

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- *2 Cor 4:17-18 For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

- *Psa 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

- *1 Cor 2:9 "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man, The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

- **God is telling us we can't even begin to imagine what He has prepared for us!**
- **Biblical HOPE is CONFIDENCE in a future promise!**
  - **Our hope is 'rope' of security that binds us to a future reality!**
- **Are you filled with hope?**
- **Do you have confidence in the promises God has given to us?**