



How Great
Thou Art!
THE INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

The Sovereignty of God

ROMANS 8:28–39

STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask GG members to think of conflicts between nations, either past or present. Then ask them what are some things that make it difficult for these nations to settle their differences. One possible cause is that these nations acknowledge no authority higher than their own. Use this as a segue to the lesson.

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested song:

[All Creatures of Our God and King](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will be assured of their salvation - past, present, and future.
2. GG members will patiently and faithfully endure suffering, knowing that God loves them.

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we will learn about God's sovereignty—His supreme power or authority. Because God is omnipotent or all-powerful, He can choose to do what He wants, and nobody and nothing can hinder Him from accomplishing it. One of the things God chose to do was redeem humanity from sin and death.

God purposed for believers to be like Christ (vv. 28-30)

God's plan for the redemption of humanity included saving them from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin. This spans from the past all the way to the future.

1. How do you understand the phrase “for those who love God all things work together for good”? How might things like natural disasters and calamities work for the good of those who love God?
2. Can people question God regarding any suffering or injustice they may experience? (cf. Deuteronomy 29:29; Job 40:1-5; Romans 9:20-21)
3. In this passage, Paul referred to believers as “those who love God” and “those who are called according to his purpose.” What do you think is the connection between God's calling of believers and their love for God? (cf. Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:19) Can someone truly love another person if they have no choice or free will in the matter (i.e. shotgun wedding)?
4. What did God predestine believers to be? How, then, should believers live their lives? (cf. Ephesians 1:4; 5:27; 1 John 3:2)
5. According to verse 30, what are also true of believers who were predestined by God? How would you differentiate between being called, justified, and glorified?

Application

God had saved humanity from sin. Notice that Paul used verbs in the past tense, even though they described the future. God saved believers from the penalty of sin when Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins. This is also known as justification. God is saving believers from the power of sin through the indwelling Holy Spirit in their lives. This is also called sanctification. One day God will save believers from the presence of sin when they receive their glorified bodies, bodies that are no longer tainted by sin and death. This is called glorification. Knowing that God is sovereign and has purposed this for your life, how, then, should you live your life?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Believers have an assurance of their eternal destiny (vv. 31-39)

Because God is sovereign and has chosen to redeem humanity, believers have an assurance of their eternal destiny. Nothing can go against what the omnipotent and sovereign God has purposed.

1. What rhetorical question did Paul ask in verse 31? What point was he trying to make with this question?
2. What point was Paul trying to make in verse 32? Does this mean that God will grant believers everything they ask for? (cf. 2 Peter 1:3)
3. Because God justified believers, and Jesus Christ redeemed them and is interceding for them, what assurance can believers hold on to? (cf. Romans 3:23-25; 5:1; Hebrews 7:25)
4. Paul began and ended verses 35-39 with the same thought. He began this passage with a question but ended it with a definite answer to that question. What point did he make in this passage? (cf. John 16:33)

Application

How does having an assurance of your eternal destiny and God's love affect how you view pain and suffering in your life?

PRAYER ITEM

Dear Lord, thank You for choosing to love me and for giving up Your Son to redeem me from my sins. I acknowledge that I am not worthy and cannot do anything to possibly earn Your love and forgiveness. I offer my life to You in gratitude and response to the love that You first showered upon me. May my life bring glory to Your name, and may I gradually be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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