

TCF Sermon Aug.2, 2026
Guaranteed Glory
Romans 8
“Guaranteed Glory”

The Christian life is supernatural from the start—rebirth...

I. John 3:1-16. Jesus shocked the Pharisee theologian Nicodemus...

- A. That he wasn't going to see the kingdom of God...
- B. That he needed something beyond the Torah to bring him into the kingdom.
 - 1. A new kind of eternal, divine life from above.
- C. That he had no way of acquiring that life in his own—he needed to get it from Jesus by trusting that Jesus is who he says he is. 15-16

II. There was another Pharisee, much angrier than Nicodemus... Saul. Acts 9:17-19.

- A. Though a Jesus-hater up to this moment, Saul is forgiven and born from above by the Spirit under the Lordship of Jesus!!
- B. *It is this new life and realm of forgiveness that Paul talks about in Rom.8*
 - 1. *This is the Holy Spirit chapter of Romans.*

III. Which is why Paul was so enamored of Life in Christ's Spirit. Romans 8

A. The Life of the Spirit immerses us in a new realm—in Christ Himself 1-11

- 1. **In Christ** = a new Spirit realm, a new metaphysical reality, not this age, but the next,
 - a) We have been joined to God's trinitarian life through Christ, the 2nd Person. *Baptism symbolizes this. Matt.28:18-20, which means...*
 - b) Col.1:13-14. Out of the domain of darkness and into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have forgiveness of sins.
- 2. **We are not condemned, ever. 1-3**
 - a) *Because Christ took the blame for us (all of it. 2 Cor.5:21; Gal.3:13)*
- 3. **We are spiritually alive, always. 5-11 Verse 9**
 - a) Christ's Spirit dwells in us.9-10
 - b) Which guarantees our resurrection. 11
 - (1) Spirit life is resurrection life now and forever...Phil.3
 - c) *A new heart that wants to please the Lord.*

B. The Adoption of the Spirit makes us real children of God. 12-17 (1Jn.3:1)

- a) In place of slavery to sin, freedom to obey God. 12-13
 - (1) *Though not without struggle (putting to death the deeds of the body)*
- b) In place of fear and dread—security and inheritance. **Verse 15-17**
 - (1) *Looking forward to Christ's own inheritance. Eph.1-2*
- c) ***Life in the Spirit is transforming life! (12:1-2)***
- d) *Note: This is God's work, not human work, and comes only by faith in Jesus Christf. Jn.1:12-13. Only God makes Christians.*

C. The Hope of the Spirit keeps us focused on the future. 18-25

- 1. There really is a new world coming! Literally incomparable, words fail...
- 2. *Your identity is not in your past, your sin, the trauma of this age, but in the future, resurrection, the world as you always knew it should be.*
- 3. *So, Suffering need not deter us -- it is temporary. 18-25.*

IV. The dynamic of the Spirit works eternally in us. 26-39. Note 4 things:

A. He translates our prayers: 26-27.

1. We feel weak, of course, but so what! The Spirit intercedes for us.
 - a) He prays for us while we are praying, so that our prayers conform to God's will.
2. *It is impossible for God to misunderstand us...*
3. *He gives us what we would have asked for if we knew what He knows...*

B. He crafts our lives. 28 (providence)

1. Through the Spirit, the Father causes *all things* to work together for our good.
 - a) Things out of our control. Gen.45:5; 50:20; Acts 2:23
 - (1) Sufferings of all kinds in this age. (18-25)
 - (2) Matt.10:30 (Sparrow and hair and your value to God)
 - b) but also things in our control. Acts 2:23, 4:28. Heb.12
 - (1) Our pains, traumas, failures, repentance, correction
2. Not that all things are good, but that He uses the wreckage of this life for good in our lives.
3. The "good" is being *conformed to the image of Christ*.
 - a) Including correction, encouragement, nourishment
 - b) Including especially resurrection. Phil.3:20-21
4. *Could God promise this if He were not providential and sovereign?*

C. He guarantees our Glory. 29-30

1. The Father decided to do this in eternity past. 29-30 (Eph.1:3-5; Phil. 1:6). Note, these are all past tense verbs.
2. He foreknew – proginsko
 - a) A synonym for predestined or fore-ordained.
 - (1) In 1 Peter 1:20 and Rom. 11:2 it obviously means fore-ordained (in I Peter 1:1-2, too).
3. He predestined -- prohoridzo
 - a) To determine something in advance. *Does the Lord have Free Will?*
4. He called -- from kaleo -- to call.
 - a) Must be more than the generic call, must be specific summons.
5. He Justified -- from dikaio -- declare righteous
 - a) Declared legally righteous
6. He glorified -- from doxadzo -- to make glorious,
 - a) The final state of complete Christlikeness. Phil.3:20-21
 - b) (Like Jesus, remember the transfiguration?)

D. He wraps us in His Love: Christians are safe forever. 31-39.

1. If God is for us, who is against us? 31
2. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? 34-39
 - a) Can any calamity separate us from the Lord's love?
 - b) List includes angelic and demonic powers, time, space, life, and death.

E. Note: The emphasis in 28-39 is on the certainty of God's work.

1. Note that these are all Aorist active indicative -- past tense.
2. Did He complete the work in all the ones He started in? Yes. That's the point!
3. Jn. 6:39-40; 44; 65; 10:25-30

This sequence of verbs is a famous debating ground over issues of soteriology – election, predestination, eternal security. But we must not lose sight of Paul's main point, namely, to assure believers that God has a plan he is unfolding, one that provides fully for our future glory. He wants us to come away from this text not with theological questions but with a renewed sense of assurance: that the God who began a good work in us will indeed bring it to completion in the day of Christ Jesus (Phil 1:6)." Douglas Moo, *NIV Application Commentary on Romans*, p 271

V. Why should a real Christian be confident? Because in Christ's Spirit and Realm...

A. **Our Father's life in us is indestructible. 1-30**

1. When we come to Christ, the Father puts his own life in us, which is why we cannot NOT be resurrected.
2. That's why it's called *eternal* life, (KJV "everlasting")
3. *If it is eternal, it is not temporary...*

B. **Our Father's support toward us is unstoppable. 31-32**

1. It is still about Him, but he is *for us* as His personal children.

C. **Our Father's justification of us is incontestable. 33-35**

1. Because He is the judge, who else is there to accuse?
2. Because Christ is interceding for us constantly. So is the Spirit. 26
 - a) **His intercession is propitiation 1 John 1:8-2:2**
 - b) How can this intercession fail?
3. So, We cannot self-justify (forgive ourselves). He does it for us.
 - a) Self-justification is precisely what we cannot accomplish because our "Self" is what did the deed in the first place. Adolf Hitler probably "forgave himself" but so what?
 - b) Justification comes from the Lord. His feelings about us are more important than our feelings about ourselves.

D. **Our Father's love for us is unbreakable. 35-39**

1. It's His love, not ours that sustains the eternal life. 37. 1 Jn.4:10
 - a) Through Him who loved us ...
 - b) *God's personal love is sustaining, deliberate, effective, powerful. Not like the helpless longing we have for things or people.*
 - c) *The fact that we are not insulated from the death and destruction of this world makes us think perhaps the Lord doesn't love us, but that is not true*