

# Making It Through Tough Times

Romans 8

## The Context

Even a brief glance at the arguments and metaphors used by Paul in this chapter give a strong sense that the intended audience in Rome was going through tough times.

<sup>8:1</sup>There is therefore now no **condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>11</sup>But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give **life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who indwells you.

<sup>15</sup>For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to **fear** again, ...

...but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, **“Abba! Father!”**

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

<sup>23</sup>And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves**, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

<sup>26</sup>And in the same way the Spirit also helps our **weakness**; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

Feelings of condemnation, physical health concerns, fears, a childlike sense of being out of control, sufferings, groaning, and weakness, all suggest the specific context of this passage is to encourage believers who are going through difficult times.

## The Encouragement

This context brings us to the main verse for today’s study, verse 28. It’s one of the best known verses in Scripture. Let’s look at it phrase by phrase to see specifically how it applies to those in difficult times:

<sup>28</sup>And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

An important note: This passage does not say that God causes all things. It says that God causes all things to work together for good. This will be important as we consider what might be included in the phrase, “all things.”

“All things” – What does this include? **Good, bad, sin, failure, accidents, mistreatment, injustice, unmet desires, lost dreams, disasters, violence**

“to work” – reference James 1:2-5

“for good” – What could this include? **Character, ministry, opportunity, God’s glory, wisdom, patience, Christ-likeness**

<sup>29</sup>For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; <sup>30</sup>and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

## Even More Encouragement

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?** <sup>32</sup>**He who did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup>who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>Just as it is written, “FOR THY SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.”

<sup>37</sup>But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.**