

2020 - Term 1
Holiday Daily Reading Notes

ROMANS 8

Gospel Blessings

ev / church

INTRODUCTION: ROMANS 8

This is one of the most popular chapters of the Bible. It lifts our gaze to see beyond ourselves and the things of this world to see our God and his great work for us.

Through this chapter we will be stirred to see the incredible gospel blessings that are ours in Christ. Not only have we been saved from condemnation, we have been adopted as God's children, given the gift of God's Spirit, and the certain hope of the love of God for this life and for all eternity. Let it be our prayer that God's Word would move us to love Him more. It is certain how many of our enjoyments, hopes, comforts, and loves in this life are uncertain. May we enjoy and be grateful for the solid, unshakeable, certain hope of glory promised by our loving Father, secured for us in His Son, and testified to us by His Spirit. How blessed we are in Christ! Pray that this time of suffering and loss would stir you to drink deeply of glory and gain we have eternally in Christ.

Each day there is a 'want more?' section. This includes suggested podcasts, sermons, and other resources that are there for you if you would like to listen or read them. These resources are ordered from shorter to longer in terms of time or amount of words.

WEEK 1, DAY 2: ROMANS 8:1-4

RIGHT WITH GOD

1. What does this passage imply about our past? What does it say about our present and future?
2. How can the requirements of the law be met in sinners like us?
3. Whatever has or will happen for you today, what can you be thankful to God for from His Word to you?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Want more?

Don Carson – [Should Christians keep the 10 commandments? Yes and no](#) (2min, YouTube video)

Paul Tripp – [Preach the gospel to yourself](#) (12min, podcast)

Phillip Jensen – [How COVID-19 changes evangelism](#) (23min, podcast)

Andrew Heard – [Romans 1:1-13](#) (sermon)

WEEK 1, DAY 3: ROMANS 8:5-8

WITHOUT GOD THERE'S NO HOPE

1. Where would we be if we continued to live according to the flesh (our sinful desires)? What hope would we have had to get out of that place?
2. What words are used to describe the spiritual life in this passage? How does the mind feature?
3. How does this passage spur you to pray for people who do not know God? What does it spur you to pray for yourself and for other Christian brothers and sisters?

Pray about these things.

Want more?

Don Carson – [What's the relationship between law and the gospel?](#) (2min, video)

Kevin de Young – [The doctrine of the Holy Spirit](#) (13min, podcast)

Craig Dobbie – [Who is the Holy Spirit](#) (EV Night weekend away sermon)

WEEK 1, DAY 4: ROMANS 8:9-13

SPIRIT OF LIFE

1. What has the Spirit done for Christ and for us?
2. What do you notice about how Paul speaks of 'life' and 'death' in this passage?
3. Spiritual life is "putting to death the misdeeds of the body" (8:13). How is it comforting to know that the power of the Spirit is in us to change us?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Bonus questions: What are the different titles given to the Spirit in this passage? How does this help us see the mystery and complete otherness of our triune God?

Want more?

Michael Horton – [Should we pray for filling of the Holy Spirit?](#) (2min, YouTube video)

Kevin de Young – [Theological primer: the Holy Spirit](#) (blog post)

Andreil Sanchez and Michael Horton – [How do I conquer my sin?](#) (25min, podcast)

WEEK 1, DAY 5: ROMANS 8:14-17

ADOPTED

1. From this passage, what does the Spirit do for us?

2. If you reflect on where we would have been without God (8:1 – under condemnation, 8:7 – unable to submit to God’s law, 8:13 – spiritually died) adoption is an absolutely incredible gift of grace. How can you be mindful of the Spirit today as he testifies to you about this gift you have?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Want more?

Don Carson – [What is Biblical pray and why should I pray if God knows everything?](#) (5min, YouTube video)

Piper and Charles – [Scriptures they turn to when discouraged](#) (8min, podcast)

Paul Grimmond – [Living with anxiety](#) (45min, podcast)

WEEK 1, DAY 6: ROMANS 8:18-25

SUFFERING AND GLORY

1. What does the passage say about suffering, hope, and glory?
2. How does suffering help us see our ultimate gift?
3. Christians groan inwardly yet have incredible hope and glory. How have you seen this in your life? What comfort is there in the Bible's frankness about Christian life?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Want more?

John Piper – [5 Reasons for suffering](#) (article)

Mikey Lynch – [Sacrifice: the tension between the good life and dying to self](#) (27min, podcast)

Andrew Heard – [Romans 18:18-27](#) (sermon)

WEEK 2, DAY 1: ROMANS 8:26-27

THE SPIRIT INTERCEDES

1. What does the Spirit do to intercede for us?
2. “There is one in heaven, the Son of God, who intercedes for us on our behalf, defending us from all charges that might be brought against us, guaranteeing our salvation in the day of judgement (8:34). But there is also... an intercessor in the heart, the Spirit of God, who effectively prays to the Father on our behalf throughout the difficulties and uncertainties of our lives here on earth” (Douglas Moo). How is this a comfort for you during uncertain times?

Pray in light of these things. You may like to pray using the blog post below.

Want more?

Scotty Smith – [A prayer about our groans and the Spirit’s groans](#) (blog post)

Jez Reynolds – [Romans 8:17-27](#) (sermon)

Jono McKeown – [Suffering and the sovereignty of God](#) (sermon)

WEEK 2, DAY 3: ROMANS 8:29-30

THE GOLDEN CHAIN

1. What do these verses reveal about what God has done for His people?
2. Verse 30 has been called 'The Golden Chain of Salvation', how does it give certainty for Christians?
3. "We could reasonably translate this text (Romans 8:29), 'Those whom he foreloved (those whom he knew in a personal, intimate, redemptive sense from all eternity) he predestined" (R.C Sproul). As you reflect on God's love of you before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:3), what might it look like to treasure God's love this week?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Want more?

[The Golden Chain of Salvation](#) (article)

Michael Horton – [Glorification](#) (13min, podcast)

Andrew Heard – [Romans 8:28-30](#) (sermon)

WEEK 2, DAY 4: ROMANS 8:31-34

ASSURANCE OF THE FUTURE

1. What four reasons are given to assure us of our standing before God?
2. How does this passage speak to this doubt:
“I should be better than what I am, I’ve struggled with this sin for too long, I’m not sure if God would let me into heaven.”
3. How could you rewrite these doubts to focus on what God has done in Jesus for us instead of focusing on what we have or haven’t done?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Want more?

Don Carson – [The grounds of our assurance](#) (3min, YouTube video)

Dan Wu – [The impact of guilt and shame](#) (35min, podcast)

Ray Galea – [Romans 8:28-37](#) (32min, sermon)

WEEK 2, DAY 5: ROMANS 8:35-39

ASSURANCE IN THE PRESENT

1. No matter what life circumstances can take away from you, what can Christians be assured of never losing?
2. How does God's unshakeable love for you stir your affection for your heavenly Father?

Pray in light of the things you have reflected on.

Want more?

John Piper – [Better than Everest](#) (article)

John Piper – [Can a born-again Christian lose salvation?](#)
(10min, podcast)

Greg Lee – [You can be certain of going to heaven, Romans 8:28-39](#)
(40min, sermon)

