

STUDY NOTES

A LETTER TO THE ROMANS *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “What Kind of God Do We Serve?” on 5/14/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 8:31-39

GOD IS FOR US

If God is for us, then who can be against us? God has chosen you, and you can live knowing that God is for you. He is there with you in the challenges of life. We know that he is committed to us by what he has already done for us. He didn't spare his own son. That's the heart of the father. He wants to give us what we need—what we actually need.

- *How have you heard a verse like Romans 8:31 used before?*

HOW DO WE QUALIFY?

According to verse 33, believers are God's elect. Knowing that you've already been selected, no one can say that you don't qualify. God chooses us to be a part of his family, revealing that there is a purpose for you. So who can condemn you? The only person that could condemn you is Jesus, but instead, he is at the right hand of God interceding for us. He is at the most powerful place in the universe, saying what ever you need will be given.

- *Take just a moment to talk with each other about what it means to you that Jesus actually wants you on his team, and not only that, but that he is there interceding for you.*

Sometimes we don't feel the presence of God, but our job is to trust him, so he can do his job of interceding for the father. The good news about being friends with Jesus, he has access to all that we need.

- *Share with each other a time in life when you didn't feel God's presence, but still trusted him anyway. How hard was that? What did you learn about God?*

ALL WE NEED

- *When you hear that God will provide all you need, what type of things do you normally think about? Or what type of needs would you like “all needs” to include?*

In verse 35, Paul is implying that believers will go through trials and persecutions. There are seasons in life when we can rejoice. There are seasons in life when we are troubled. When things are going well for us, we feel like we know God in all his power and glory. But then, inevitably, life turns hard. Then we are hurting and vulnerable. Sometimes even when you are faithful, your hearts can still be broken. Things happen that you will not anticipate. This him being spiteful, but he doesn't always prevent things from happening. He is interceding for us wherever we are in life.

- *Read Psalm 44:7-26. How do you sometimes feel like the people in Psalm 44?*
- *How can you sympathize with Jesus when he was tortured and killed even though he was faithful?*

WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

You are destined to triumph. You are destined to be a conqueror—not because of your strength or will-power, but because of him who loves us. Doing things with your own strength will lead you to feel like you can't be good enough. Sometimes we have a tendency to think that if we serve God faithfully enough then that we won't have to worry about anything. But ultimately our life here is about being molded to Christ.

- *While God does care about our physical situations (see how we are called to care for the poor), why do you think it is important to see that God cares most of all for our character?*
- *How does life with Christ redefine what it means to triumph?*
- *Pray with each other that we'd feel how Jesus intercedes for us.*