

3I - God's Triumph

Read Romans 8:26-39



At the end of the movie *Patton* we hear the famous general say, "*For over a thousand years Roman conquerors returning from the wars enjoyed the honor of a triumph, a tumultuous parade. In the procession came trumpeters, musicians, and strange animals from the conquered territories, together with carts laden with treasure and captured armaments. The conqueror rode in a triumphal chariot, the dazed prisoners walking in chains before him. Sometimes his children, robed in white, stood with him in the chariot or rode the trace horses. A slave stood behind the conqueror, holding a golden crown and whispering in his ear a warning: that all glory is fleeting.*"

In Romans 8, Paul describes Christians as conquerors, who by God's love and grace overcome all forces that are hostile or harmful to us. However, the glory we receive can never be taken from us! Our triumph is God's triumph in us.

1. Why is it easy for Christians to feel more like the conquered than the conqueror?
2. Read Romans 8:26-39. What words would you use to describe the mood of this passage?
3. Are there ever times when you feel at a loss about how to pray (Romans 8:26)? Explain.
4. How can we be encouraged by the Spirit's prayers for us (Romans 8:26-27)?

5. In Romans 8:28, Paul speaks of "the good" and "his purpose." What is God's good purpose for us (Romans 8:29)?

6. How do words such as *foreknew*, *predestined*, *called*, *justified*, and *glorified* (Romans 8:29-30) help us to understand how God accomplishes His purpose for us?

7. Paul claims that God is working in every situation and circumstance in our lives to accomplish His good purpose (Romans 8:28). How do you respond to this claim?

8. In Romans 8:31-34, Paul imagines a courtroom in which God is the judge and Jesus is our defense attorney. How and why would they respond to any accusations brought against us (Romans 8:31-34)?

How can their verdict encourage us when we feel unacceptable before God?

9. Many first-century Christians, including Paul, experienced many of the hardships described in Romans 8:35-36. Why might these experiences cause us to question God's love for us?

10. How can Christians who are led like sheep to be slaughtered be considered "more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37-39)?

11. In what ways can this passage help us appreciate our triumph in God (Romans 8:26-39)?