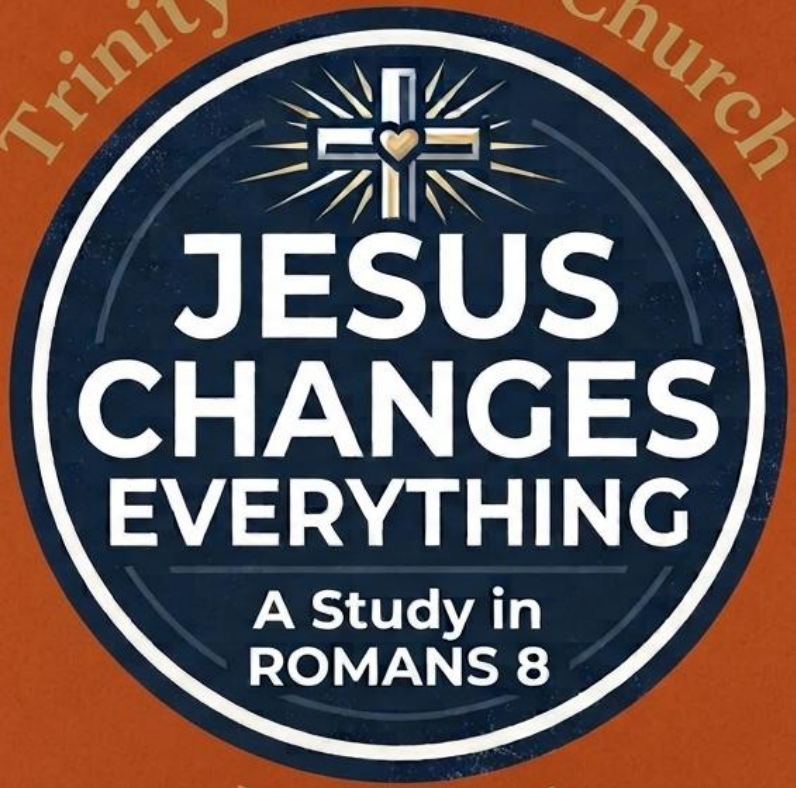
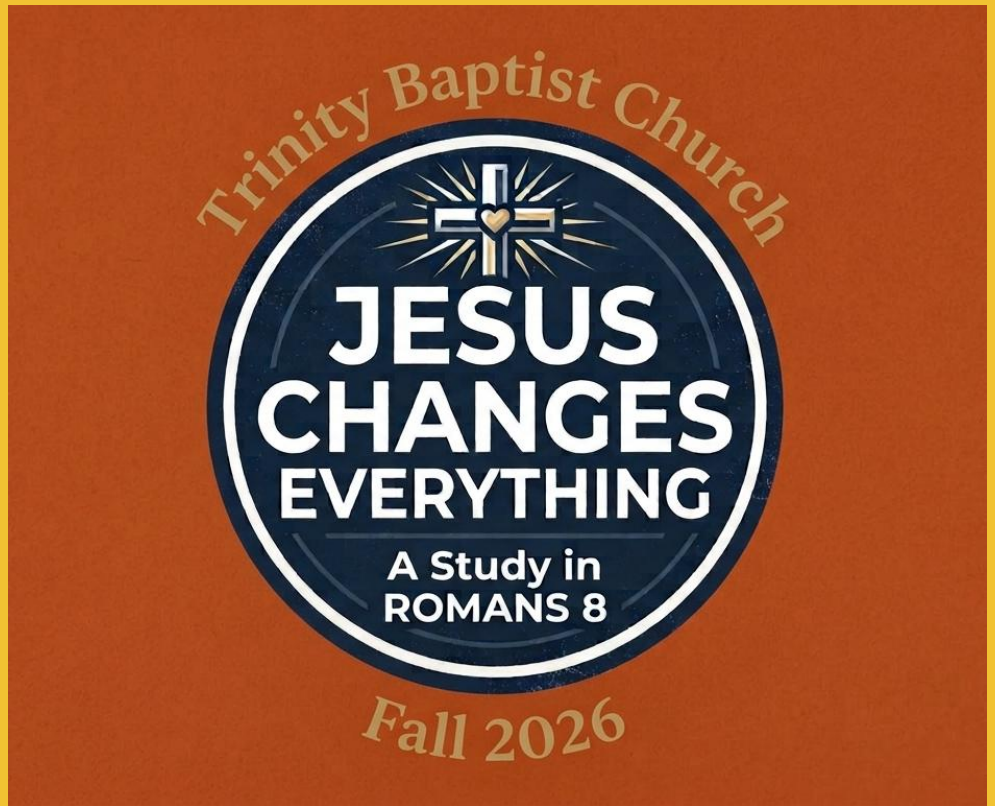
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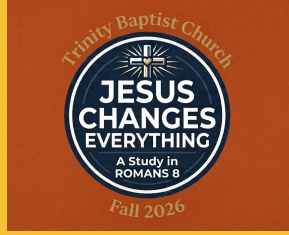
Fall 2026

Understanding God's Plan - Romans 8:26-30



A Focus on Intercession, Complication, And Destination

Romans 8:26-30 (ESV)

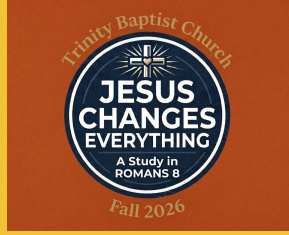


26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:26-30 (ESV)

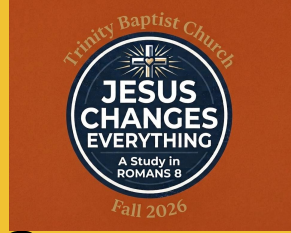
29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Intercession v.26-27



- Notice again how Paul gives us an absolute truth here.
  - “The Spirit helps in our weakness”
- It is so easy to identify problems, but difficult to find solutions.
  - Many times we pray for God to enact our solution instead of lifting up our needs and seeking His will.
  - A role of the Spirit is to intercede on our behalf.

Intercession v.26-27



- Intercede: to intervene between parties with a view to reconciling differences.
  - When we pray the Spirit moves to help us gain a better understanding of God's perspective and His will.
- The intercession of the Spirit on our behalf is beyond our comprehension.
  - So many times we are confined by the limitations of our mind.

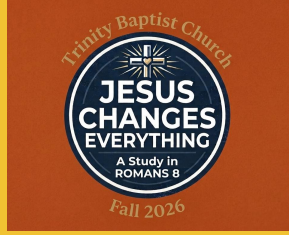
Complication - v.28

- Maybe the most misquoted verse in the Bible.
  - Like all scripture, it is important to read within the context of the passage.
  - Paul has just been discussing Restoration and God's eternal plan.
- "And We Know" - Not new information here, but gained through experience.
- "For Those Who Love God" - Speaking to a specific group of people here.
  - To love God is to love His will even when it is contrary to our own desires.
- We cannot apply the rest of this verse to people who do not love God.

Complication - v.28

- “All things work together for good”
  - Notice it does not say “your good,” just “good” as in the greater good.
  - Sometimes the “work together” part is hard for us to perceive.
- “for those who are called according to his purpose.”
  - Notice how both ends of this verse describe someone who loves God and desires His will above all else.
  - Believers are described here as called, in that God initiates this relationship through the Holy Spirit.

Destination - v.29 & 30

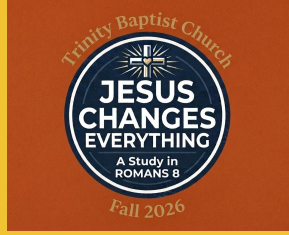


- Just like in the preceding section, Paul is zooming out to see the bigger picture.
- Here we see our salvation from God's perspective.
- It is wrong of us to think that we have a mind equal to God that can comprehend the magnitude of what is being revealed in these two verses.
    - Rather, they are here to help us understand just how secure that we are in our Savior, Jesus, and in God's great plan.

Destination - v.29 & 30

- Notice 2 things are mentioned before our calling is; Foreknowledge and Predestined.
- Foreknowledge: God has known us from eternity past.
  - Jeremiah 1:4-5 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Destination - v.29 & 30



Predestined: God has already appointed the destination of believers.

John 14:1-4 “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

Destination - v.29 & 30



- Called: Although we have the choice to believe in Jesus as our Savior, the Bible states that knowledge of Jesus as Savior is revealed through the Holy Spirit.
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.*
- Through Jesus we are justified and will be glorified.



Conclusion

1. Have you put your faith in Jesus as your Savior?
2. Are you seeking God's plan or are you seeking for God to fulfil your plan?
3. How can the reality of our security in Jesus reshape your thinking today?