

## Romans 8: Winners

After seven chapters of explaining God's way of putting us right with Himself through what Jesus achieved on the cross, 1<sup>st</sup> Century church-planter Paul explains with some enthusiasm how those who trust and follow God's Son are no longer condemned but liberated, enabled and guided by His Spirit to live in a positive, honourable and God-pleasing way.

The Holy Spirit living in us is all the help we need until the coming resurrection when God will make all things completely new. Even through the most difficult times God is with us, working for good, assuring us we are the winners, through Christ!

Look out for the following key verses:

'There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ...' (v1)

Christians have been 'justified', given a new 'righteous' status before God. We're no longer labelled 'guilty' and destined for punishment but forgiven, stamped 'accepted' and welcomed to approach the Almighty as our loving 'Father in Heaven'. Our future is secure in heavenly resurrection and eternal life.

But also, 'The Spirit helps us in our weakness...' (v26)

Not only is our past sorted and our future in safe hands, our Lord is with us by the Holy Spirit. God dwells in us, helping us become more obedient and pleasing, just like Christ.

Not forgetting 'In all things God works for the good of those who love Him...' (v28)

God is ultimately in control over everything and He has a plan which includes us. Even in difficult circumstances He is at work for the triumph of good. Even should we suffer temporarily, Christians are assured that nothing 'will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (v39)