



Sunday, August 23, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Romans 8:22-39

Ole Hallesby, the Norwegian Lutheran theologian that Pastor Don referenced Sunday morning, said “as far as I can see, prayer has been ordained only for the helpless. Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only he who is helpless can truly pray.” Those words are especially striking in a culture built on self-reliance. The nagging question we have to ask ourselves as American Christians is: are we helpless enough to pray?

For Paul, our helplessness was obvious. He spoke about our condition apart from Christ as being “dead in our transgressions and sins” (Eph. 2:1). He spoke of our predicament as sinners facing the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18ff.) and how the righteousness of God that can only come through Christ was absolutely essential for our salvation. But he also spoke about the great God who is our Help (Ps. 22:9). Thankfully, our God is not only eager to help, the Son and the Spirit both intercede for us because we are so helpless we don’t even know how to pray!

Context

Romans 8 is perhaps one of the most profound chapters in the entire Bible. After his detailed explanation of our plight as sinners and the righteousness from God that has justified us in His sight so that we have peace with Him and newness of life, Paul turns to talking about the on-going struggle that we face in this lifetime. When we try to do good, evil lies close at hand. Not only that but suffering pervades almost every area of life now. But thanks be to God that there is no final condemnation in Christ and by His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to slay sin in the meantime and wait eagerly for the time of our glorification.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Romans 8:22-39

“God Is for Us”

God is praying for us

God’s Spirit is praying for us (26-30)

- He helps in our weakness

- He prays with inexpressible groans

- He prays according to the will of God

God’s Son is praying for us (32-34)

- His prayer is based on His sacrifice

- His prayer is based on His exaltation

- His prayer is based on constant intercession

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” – Romans 8:37

