

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



Blessed Assurance

Hymn 67



**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text 'Call to Worship' is centered over the pages in a large, bold, black font.

Call to Worship

Psalm 62:1-8

Psalm 62:1-8 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Jesus Paid It All

Hymn 273



Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Hymn 621





Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“I have no confidence at all in polished speech or brilliant literary effort to bring about a revival, but I have all the confidence in the world in the poor saint who would weep her eyes out because people are living in sin.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the book's pages.

Today's Message

“Our Strength and Hope”

Scripture text: Romans Ch 8:18-39

Paul in this section dealt with the very real problem of suffering and pain. Perhaps the best way to understand this section is to note the three “groans” that are discussed.

Creation groans (vv. 18–22). When God finished His Creation, it was a good Creation (Gen. 1:31); but today it is a groaning Creation. There is suffering and death; there is pain, all of which is, of course, the result of Adam’s sin. It is not the fault of creation. Note the words that Paul used to describe the plight of creation: suffering (Rom. 8:18), vanity (Rom. 8:20), bondage (Rom. 8:21), decay (Rom. 8:21), and pain (Rom. 8:22).

However, this groaning is not a useless thing: Paul compared it to a woman in travail. There is pain, but the pain will end when the child is delivered.

One day creation will be delivered, and the groaning creation will become **a glorious creation!** The believer does not focus on today's sufferings; he **looks forward to tomorrow's glory** (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:15–18).

Today's groaning bondage will be exchanged for tomorrow's glorious liberty!

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

2 Corinthians 4:15-18 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, **to the glory of God.** So **we do not lose heart.** Though our outer self is wasting away, **our inner self is being renewed day by day.** For this light momentary affliction **is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

We believers groan (vv. 23–25).

The reason we groan is because we have experienced “the firstfruits of the Spirit,” a foretaste of the glory to come. Just as the nation of Israel tasted the firstfruits of Canaan when the spies returned (Num. 13:23–27), so we Christians have tasted of the blessings of heaven through the ministry of the Spirit. This makes us want to see the Lord, receive a new body, and live with Him and serve Him forever. We are waiting for “the adoption,” which is the redemption of the body when Christ returns (Phil. 3:20–21).

Philippians 3:17-21 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, **with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

This is the thrilling climax to **“the adoption”** that took place at conversion when **“the Spirit of adoption”** gave us an adult standing in God’s family. When Christ returns, we shall enter into our full inheritance.

Meanwhile, we wait and hope. **“For we are saved by that hope”** (Rom. 8:24, literal translation). What hope? **“That blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”** (Titus 2:13). **The best is yet to come! The believer does not get frustrated as he sees and experiences suffering and pain in this world. He knows that the temporary suffering will one day give way to eternal glory.**

The Holy Spirit groans (vv. 25–30).

God is concerned about the trials of His people.

When He was ministering on earth, Jesus groaned when He saw what sin was doing to mankind (Mark 7:34; John 11:33, 38). **Today the Holy Spirit groans with us and feels the burdens of our weaknesses and suffering.** But the Spirit does more than groan. He prays for us in His groaning **so that we might be led into the will of God.** We do not always know God's will. **We do not always know how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes so that we might live in the will of God in spite of suffering.** The Spirit "shares the burden."

The believer never need faint in times of suffering and trial because he knows that God is at work in the world (Rom. 8:28), and that He has a perfect plan (Rom. 8:29). **God has two purposes in that plan: our good and His glory.**

Ultimately, He will make us like Jesus Christ! Best of all, God's plan is going to succeed! It started in eternity past when He chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:4–5). He predetermined that one day we would be like His Son. Predestination applies only to saved people. Nowhere are we taught that God predestines people to be eternally condemned.

If they are condemned, **it is because of their refusal to trust Christ** (John 3:18–21).

Those whom He chose, He called (see 2 Thes. 2:13–14); when they responded to His call, He justified them, and He also glorified them. This means that the believer has already been glorified in Christ (John 17:22); **the revelation of this glory awaits the coming of the Lord** (Rom. 8:21–23).

How can we Christians ever be discouraged and frustrated when we already share the glory of God? **Our suffering today only guarantees that much more glory when Jesus Christ returns!**

Freedom from Fear-No Separation (Rom. 8:31–39)

There is no condemnation because we share the righteousness of God and the Law cannot condemn us. There is no obligation because **we have the Spirit of God who enables us to overcome the flesh and live for God**. There is no frustration **because we share the glory of God, the blessed hope of Christ's return**.

There is no separation because we experience the love of God: **“What shall separate us from the love of Christ?”** (Rom. 8:35)

The emphasis in this final section **is on the security of the believer.**

We do not need to fear the past, present, or future because we are secure in the love of Christ. Paul presented five arguments to prove that there could be no separation between the believer and the Lord.

God is for us (v. 31). The Father is for us and proved it by giving His Son (Rom. 8:32). The Son is for us (Rom. 8:34) and so is the Spirit (Rom. 8:26). God is making all things work for us (Rom. 8:28).

In His person and His providence, **God is for us.** Sometimes, like Jacob, we lament, “All these things are against me” (Gen. 42:36), when actually everything is working for us. The conclusion is obvious: **“If God be for us, who can be against us?”**

The believer needs to enter into each new day realizing that God is for him. There is no need to fear, for his loving Father desires only the best for His children, even if they must go through trials to receive His best. “ ‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope’ ” (Jer. 29:11).

Christ died for us (v. 32). The argument here is from the lesser to the greater. If when we were sinners, **God gave us His best, now that we are God's children, will He not give us all that we need?**

Jesus used this same argument when He tried to convince people **that it was foolish to worry and fear.**

God cares for the birds and sheep, and even for the lilies; surely He will care for you!

God is dealing with His own on the basis of Calvary grace, not on the basis of Law. God freely gives all things to His own!

God has justified us (v. 33). This means that He has declared us righteous in Christ. Satan would like to accuse us (Zech. 3:1–7; Rev. 12:10), but we stand righteous in Jesus Christ. We are God's elect—chosen in Christ and accepted in Christ. God will certainly not accuse us since **it is He who has justified us**. For Him to accuse us would mean that His salvation was a failure and we are still in our sins.

Understanding **the meaning of justification brings peace to our hearts**. When God declares the **believing sinner righteous in Christ**, that declaration **never changes**.

Our Christian experience changes from day to day, but **justification never changes**. We may accuse ourselves, and men may accuse us; but **God will never take us to court and accuse us. Jesus has already paid the penalty and we are secure in Him.**

Christ intercedes for us (v. 34). A dual intercession keeps the believer secure in Christ: the Spirit intercedes (Rom. 8:26–27) and the Son of God intercedes (Rom. 8:34). The same Savior who died for us is now interceding for us in heaven. As our High Priest, **He can give us the grace we need to overcome temptation and defeat the enemy** (Heb. 4:14–16).

As our Advocate, He can forgive our sins and restore our fellowship with God (1 John 1:9–2:2). **Intercession means that Jesus Christ represents us before the throne of God and we do not have to represent ourselves.**

Paul hinted at this ministry of intercession in Romans 5:9–10. **We are not only saved by His death, but we are also saved by His life.** “Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because **He always lives to intercede for them**” (Heb. 7:25).

Peter sinned against the Lord, but he was forgiven and restored to fellowship **because of Jesus Christ.**

“Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has asked permission to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed especially for you that your own faith may not utterly fail” (Luke 22:31–32). **He is interceding for each of us, a ministry that assures us that we are secure.**

Christ loves us (vv. 35–39). In Romans 8:31–34 **Paul proved that God cannot fail us, but is it possible that we can fail Him?** Suppose some great trial or temptation comes, and we fail? Then what?

Paul deals with that problem in this final section and explains **that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ.**

To begin with, God does not shelter us from the difficulties of life because we need them for our spiritual growth (Rom. 5:3–5).

In Romans 8:28 **God assures us that the difficulties of life are working for us and not against us.** God permits trials to come **that we might use them for our good and His glory.** We endure trials for His sake (Rom. 8:36), and since we do, **do you think that He will desert us? Of course not!**

Instead, He is closer to us when we go through the difficulties of life.

Furthermore, **He gives us the power to conquer** (Rom. 8:37). We are “more than conquerors,” literally, “we are superconquerors” through Jesus Christ! **He gives us victory and more victory! We need not fear life or death, things present or things to come, because Jesus Christ loves us and gives us the victory.**

This is not a promise with conditions attached: “If you do this, God will do that.” This security in Christ is an established fact, and we claim it for ourselves because we are in Christ.

**Nothing can separate you from His love! Believe it—
and rejoice in it!**

A review of this wonderful chapter shows that the Christian is completely victorious. We are free from judgment because Christ died for us and we have His righteousness. We are free from defeat because Christ lives in us by His Spirit and we share His life. We are free from discouragement because Christ is coming for us and we shall share His glory. We are free from fear because Christ intercedes for us and we cannot be separated from His love.

No condemnation! No obligation! No frustration! No separation!

If God be for us, who can be against us!

Amazing Grace

Hymn 107

