



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Luke 12:35-48**

*Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.*

1. Talk about how it feels to be an “insider” and how it feels to be an “outsider”. In your relationship with God, which of these seems to describe you best, and why?
2. Think about the importance of acceptance and access to God when it comes to the growth of our faith. How can you apply these truths when you are struggling—be specific?
3. Share which of the “problems” (the world, the flesh/self-will, Satan) that grow us, that you seem to encounter most. Why do you think that is?
4. In your response to struggle, where are you right now—retreat, resentment, resignation, or determination to resolve it? What will it take for you to move to the next level?
5. Share an experience in which you persevered and your faith grew as a result. What did that do to your belief in the “glory” of God? What lessons from that can you pass on?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

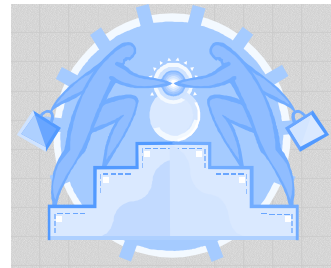
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**Adult Bible Fellowships**

**Locations, Times, Descriptions**

**9:00**

**10:45**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

9:00	10:45
Rm104 30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104 Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112	Rm 112 Women—Byrum
Rm 201 30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201 How People Grow
Rm 202	Rm 202 “ “ “
Rm 203 Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203 30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 204	Rm 204 Singles—Bentzel
Rm 205 40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205 Open—Regis-Anderson
Rm 206 Experiencing God—Graham	Rm 206 30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207 40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207 20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 208 Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208 College—Ayres-Getchell
	Gym Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker

November 7, 2004

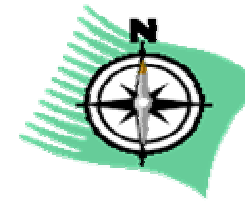
**Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)**

*Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans*

**Celebration Fellowship**

**Git 'R Done**

**A preview of Romans 9:1-10:15**



Volume 3, Issue 10  
November 7, 2004

**Inside this issue:**

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On Jeff Foxworthy's Blue Collar Comedy Tour, when Larry, the cable guy, says, “Get 'r done”, he means that even when obstacles arise, a guy just has to figure out a way to get the job done. This is what God has done regarding Israel's rejection of Him. It would be easy to think that Israel's general rejection of God meant that He had failed, but He had a way to “get it done” all along. God had factored in their unbelief when He devised His plan to call out a group of people who would have eternal fellowship with Him; once they rejected Him,

He simply continued with His plan. This plan shows many wonderful aspects of God's nature. It shows His faithfulness, because He will still preserve a “remnant” of believing Israelites. It shows His mercy, since the rejection of God by Israel led to the inclusion of the Gentiles into God's family, even though Israel had failed to tell them about Him. It also reveals God's sovereignty, His ability to plan and execute, especially considering the lack of cooperation that all sinful mankind has given to Him. Finally, it brings into focus



**God wants to remake us from the inside out.**

God's wisdom in being able to devise a successful plan that would take into account so many contingencies. In all of this God has also honored man's will, giving to us the responsibility to confess Him and believe in Him from the heart. So, as we can see, God is able to “get 'r done”.

**Brave New World**

In the 1932 novel, “Brave New World”, Aldous Huxley satirically challenged the idea that happiness could be “engineered” by those who knew best. Many would opt for happiness, even if it cost them their freedom, but for Huxley that was too high of a price. He felt that whether one experienced happiness or not, if at least he was free, it was worth living. In Romans 8 we see God's version of a “Brave New World”, a world where we can have both— freedom within limits, and a realistic happiness that takes suffering into account. God has dealt with the man's main obstacle to happiness, sin, and given him the opportunity to “buy in” to His solution. Those who have accepted Christ's sacrifice for their sin have been placed “in Christ Jesus”, and have been set free from the Law of sin and death. The new law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has resulted in “no condemnation” for them, freeing all who believe from

**The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

**(Romans 8)**

present and future guilt. The Law couldn't do this, because it was only a measuring stick; but Christ absolved the guilt of those who believe in Him through His sacrifice for sin, which God accepted. Sin was thus sentenced to death in the flesh, allowing those who believe in Him to walk according to a new basis, the life of the “Spirit”. Those who live by the other basis, according to the flesh, focus on fleshly things, are hostile to God, and will not submit to Him; because they cannot please God, the result for them is death. However, those who are according to the Spirit are pleasing to God because they set their mind on the things of God and submit to Him. The Spirit, who indwells their renewed minds, accomplishes this, and the results are life and peace for those who live on this basis. The determining factor for whether one is according to the flesh, or according to the Spirit, is whether or not they belong to Christ.

So, if one has believed in Christ, his life is “according to the Spirit”; and if he lives on this basis, his body is spiritually dead due to sin, but his spirit is alive because Christ's righteousness has been imparted to him. Moreover, the Holy Spirit indwells his spirit, so that His life flows through our “mortal” bodies. Therefore, believers should live according to this reality, and use Christ's strength to subdue the “flesh”, rather than acting as if they are still enslaved to sin. The fact is that we are no longer indebted, or bound, to sin to have to live that way, since the sinful body has been stripped of its authority by Christ; instead we are free to put to death these “fleshy” works by the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh must die, because the “flesh” life always leads to death; but those who live according to the Spirit will live because their faith is in Christ. This applies to true believers, who are all led by the Spirit of God; thus, the courses of believers' lives are pur-

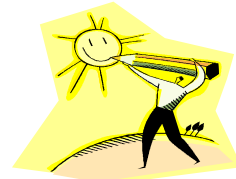
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Romans 8 (continued from pg 1)

posefully directed by God. Additionally, they are adopted into God's family; they have an intimate father-child relationship with God, and have the reality of this relationship reinforced by the Spirit of God who testifies of this internally. Because we are in God's family, we are also able to look forward to the shared inheritance we have as heirs with Christ. Taken together, these facts form an incredible foundation of blessing for those who are "in Christ", and provide strength to endure the suffering of this present life. Also, since Christ Himself suffered here on earth, we should accept suffering as a normal occurrence, and claim the promise that, if we suffer with Him, we will also be glorified with Him. Nature figuratively "cranes its neck" as it awaits our glorification, because it will be freed from its decay at the same time. This shows that mankind is integrally connected with nature, and calls us to respect it, since it will be included in God's redemptive plan. Just as nature groans while it awaits its renewal, so believers, while having the Spirit within as the "first-fruits" (guarantee) of our impending glorification, groan due to our sin cused bodies. Nevertheless, we are able to persevere because of this guaranteed hope, and because the Spirit Himself

prays for us in our weakness. This is comforting since we often don't know how to pray; but God "reads the Spirit's mind", and meets the real needs we have. This is one way He weaves all things together for good in the lives of those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose. His purpose is to make those whom He personally knew in advance to become like His Son. Those whom He set apart for this purpose before they ever came into human history, He then invited into His family. He made them right with Him, and then continued the process of bringing them to glory. These truths give believers the confidence that God is for us, not against us. The facts are that He refused to spare His own Son, but delivered Him

up for our sake, and He justifies us. His very Son died and rose again for us, and now sits at God's right hand interceding for us. Even when we are distressed, persecuted, hungry, impoverished or in danger, which is often a normal state of affairs, we must remember that God's love has not been removed; rather, it is His love that allows us to get through these things victoriously. Not only that, but there is no power on heaven or earth, in this life or in the life to come, that can separate us from the love of Christ. His powerful nature is one of love, and no event of life can overcome us; no circumstance, present or future, will overwhelm us. There is no angelic or earthly presence that can keep us from God's love, and no authority that can disconnect us from His affection for us. This love is "in Christ Jesus our Lord", and because we are in Him, we are secure within that love. Romans 8 shows us God's "brave new world": a world for believers filled with peace, freedom, and no condemnation; one in which His purpose in our lives, to look like Christ, will be fulfilled. In His world, God is for us, Christ intercedes for us, and the Spirit leads and prays for us. Temporal suffering may be endured for future glory, and His love fills our lives.



**"His purpose is to make those whom He personally knew in advance to become like His Son."**

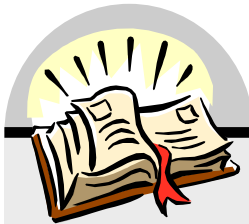
## Study Questions for Romans 9:1-10:15

*Israel's rejection of Christ has not foiled God's plans; not only will true Israel still be saved, but believing Gentiles will as well.*

1. Read Romans 9:1-5. What is Paul's feeling (v1-2), and how does he reveal the depth of that feeling (v3)? What do verses 4 & 5 have to do with the reason he feels this way? Apply this to those you know.

2. In Romans 9:6-9 how is it shown that God's promises to Israel have not failed (v6, 8)? Through whom are Abraham's descendants named (v7, 9), and why is that important (v8)?

3. Looking at Romans 9:10-13 how does the story of Rebekah (Gen 25:19-34) also show that God's word will be fulfilled (v10-11)? Since God is "love" (1 John 4:8), how should we understand v13 (see Malachi 1:2-5)?



**"Since Christ Himself suffered here on earth, we should accept suffering as a normal occurrence."**

4. From Romans 9:14-18 what does God have a right to do (v15-16)? Why was Pharaoh in his position of power (v17—see Exod 9:14-17), and did God or Pharaoh harden Pharaoh's heart 1st (see Exod 7:13, 22; 8:15)? Apply this.

5. Using Romans 9:19-23 why is it wrong to find fault with God (v20-21)? How is God's patience demonstrated when people like Pharaoh resist Him (v22), and how is His purposefulness seen (v21-23)?

6. Read Romans 9:24-29. What 2 groups are the main recipients of God's mercy (v24-26, 27-29)? What would the destiny for each of these groups have been, if God had not shown His mercy (v25-26; v29)?

7. According to Romans 9:30-33 what did the Gentiles obtain (v30) and how (v30), and why did Israel not obtain it (v31-32)? What tripped up Israel (32-33, see Isaiah 8:13-15), and why do you think it did?

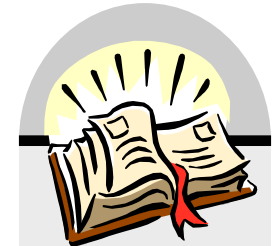
8. From Romans 10:1-4 what was good (v2) and what was bad about disbelieving Jews (2)? What did they fail to realize (v3, 4), and what did it cause them to do (v3)? How do we do the same thing at times?

9. In Romans 10:5-8 what is shown to be the difference between "works"-based righteousness (v5-7) and "faith"-based righteousness (v8)? How does this show the availability of righteousness for everyone (v8)?

10. Looking at Romans 10:9-13 what is the 1st step to "righteousness by faith" (v9), and the result (v10)? What does it mean to "call on the Lord's name" and what promises are made to all who do this (v11-13)?

11. Using Romans 10:14-15 what is necessary for people to be able to "call on the Name of the Lord" and what is our responsibility (v14)? Who sends the messengers (v15), what does this say about God?

12. Considering Romans 9:1-10:1-15 what is God's part in salvation (9:6, 11, 15, 22-23, 25, 29, 33; 10:4, 8, 15) and man's part in salvation (9:30, 32; 10:9-10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)? What should we thus conclude?



## Memory Verse

**"So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy."**

**Romans 8:1**