

GOD IS

FOR YOU

A study in Romans 8

STUDY GUIDE

Week 1: *The Son Took My Place*

READ

QUESTION 1

Romans 8:31-32

Did you grow up thinking that God was for you or against you?

Notes

Romans 8 declared that God is for you because:

1. *The Son Took Your Place*
2. *The Spirit Leads Your Life*
3. *The Father Made You His Child*
4. *A Day of Fairness is Coming*
5. *You're Getting a New Body*
6. *The Holy Spirit is Your Helper*
7. *Things Are Going to Work Out for Good*
8. *Nothing Can Separate You from God's Love*

READ

QUESTION 2

Romans 7:15, 21-24

Do you relate to Paul's cry in Romans 7:24? Notice how Paul finally moves from the "how" question to "who." What is the significance of that?

READ

QUESTION 3

Romans 8:1-4

Do you wrestle with feeling “condemnation”?

READ

QUESTION 4

Romans 5:1

How do you understand “justification”?

Notes

In Christ you have a new status, a new standing, a new position—you’re in the family and you’re secure. Regardless of whether you’re having a good day or a bad day in terms of your spiritual progress there is “*no condemnation.*”

Those who enter into Christ’s being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. (Romans 8:1, MSG)

Believe the good news. Don’t live as a slave—in bondage to fear and guilt.

READ

QUESTION 5

John 8:1-11

What is Jesus revealing about the Father in this story? What is he saying about stone throwing?

Notes

Notice: Jesus didn’t tell the woman to go and sin in peace. He encouraged her to go and live a new life. But he presented that exhortation *after* he had assured her first of no condemnation.

The gospel motivates us to strive toward holiness, not in order to please God, but because we are pleasing to God in Christ—**working from victory, not toward victory**; out of the deep personal security that comes from knowing: there is no condemnation for you in Christ because ***The Son Took Your Place.***

He came for a very specific purpose. Not just to educate us, not just to give us words of wisdom, not just to model kindness, not just to be a teacher—but to “*be a sin offering*” for us.

QUESTION 6

Pagans also offer sin offerings. This idea turns off some modern people. But what is the difference between pagan offerings and the offering of the cross? Hint: who is making the offering in each case?

Notes

This is the opposite of pagan ideas. *“God’s love is the source, not the consequence, of the atonement.”* (*The Cross of Christ*, John Stott, 174)

God doesn’t give grace because of the atonement, but provides the atonement because of grace. God doesn’t love us because Jesus died, but Jesus died because God loves us.

“Through the cross, God can look on us without displeasure and we can look on God without fear.” – John Stott (Ibid.)

QUESTION 7

Do you find it difficult or easy to believe the good news of no condemnation in Christ? How does it impact your motives for seeking to glorify God with your life?